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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS.

II.

EDUCATION AND DISCIPLINE.

THE Church—if we have respect to the whole body of the faithful; the Churches—if we regard the different parts of that body in their local and denominational distribution—may be said to exist primarily with a view to spiritual education and discipline. They have another object, no doubt, and to that we shall have occasion to advert by-and-bye. For the present, our observations will be directed to the topic denoted by our sub-title. Before entering upon it, however, we crave permission to say a word or two in behalf of the really distinctive significance of the term "Church." For it is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that there is a strong tendency among highly-cultivated men in our day, to eliminate from it nearly every shade of meaning which it has been deemed to express from the apostolic age down to within a few years. The Church, considered as a National Church, presents characteristics both of organisation and of purpose, widely differing from anything suggested by the use made of the word, whether by the Founder of Christianity, or by the men whom He appointed to carry out his beneficent ends. We do but take note of that as we pass. We advisedly refrain from drawing any conclusive inference from it. This, however, we should like to say—that, on the whole, while directing attention to the economic principles which ought, as we believe, to govern communities avowedly founded upon the truth set forth in Scripture, it is more prudent, not to say more safe, to keep rather to the idea understood to have been indicated by apostolic authority and usage, than to substitute for it one which, however it may suit the facts or fancies of the present day, discharges from the term all its original colouring.

One thing, we think, is undeniable—that the institution which is denoted by the generic name of "the Church," or "the Churches," as the reader may prefer, was called into being, organised, and stimulated into activity, with a view to minister to spiritual life, in the first instance, and thereby, in the second, to communicate that life as widely as possible. In this respect, it is analogous to the general methods of the all-wise Providence—first, a life distinctive in itself, than a development and training of that life according to its kind, and finally the transmission of it to as many as can be persuaded to receiving it. If this be not the true idea of the Christian Church—if it be not intended as the organ of Christian truth, Christian feeling, Christian activity, to mankind—we desire to know why it exists in an external form at all. There must be something distinctive about it, or all the world has gone wrong in interpreting its *raison d'être*. And, we submit, that unless it be an organisation of spiritual life, it really expresses nothing more than an intellectual phantasy. What are the special characteristics of that life it is not our immediate business to discuss. It suffices to say that any organisation of Christian society which does not aim at the education and discipline of spiritual life, and that all methods of maintaining that organisation which hinder, rather than promote, its aim in these regards, incur the condemnation of violating the laws of Christian Economics.

An illustration drawn from a somewhat lower department of human affairs will place our meaning in a clearer light. Take any political association, for example, no matter what may be the principle of policy it has been constituted to advance. Its object is to insure the enforcement and ultimate triumph of the principle it professes to represent. As a matter of course, it will seek that object by taking steps to diffuse among its members a thoroughly intelligent apprehension of its principle, to imbue their minds with a deep reverence for it, to strengthen their faith in it, to keep alive their love of it, to quicken and nourish their zeal for it. It will do this in order to become the better qualified to obtain by moral suasion continual accessions to its numbers, and increase of political influence. It will do this, we repeat, if its modes of operation be reasonable and consistent. But what if they are not? Suppose its *raison d'être* to be the abolition of the drinking customs of the age. If the machinery it deliberately preferred to employ involved a perpetual recourse to what favoured, or even tended to make light of, inebriety, surely, however externally strong it might be as an association, it would sin in its methods of working against its own avowed object. That object must be taken into account, both in the framing of its constitution, in the character and spirit of its regulations, and in its *modus operandi*; otherwise, its avowed end would be defeated by its means.

We said last week that "the whole question of the commissariat of the churches is largely to be governed by the purpose of their mission," and that "the external must be evolved from, and be of a piece with, the internal." Now, bearing in mind the foregoing illustration, we venture to affirm that the basis of the Constitution on which the Christian Church rests, renders it imperative that whatever it does to maintain itself as an organisation, should help towards the education and discipline of Christian character. For instance—to look at the case negatively—the institution which is intended to represent, as well as embody, spiritual life, ought not to be thrust into relations, or to adopt means of supporting itself, which will interfere adversely, and, to a considerable extent, fatally, with the main ends of its existence. It has its distinctive truths, its principles, its objects—and it should not, in the connections which it forms, or in the regulations it adopts, or in the sympathies to which it makes its appeal, leave altogether out of sight the kind of enterprise with which it is entrusted. This would be to stand in its own light.

We may now, we think, mark out with tolerable distinctness the line of argument we intend to take in this series of papers. The Church has been constituted to exalt in men's judgment, and to commend to their sympathies, truths relating to the living Power which dwells beyond the limits of things visible—it ought not, therefore, in its arrangements to put the seen above the unseen. It seeks to nurture trust in the Divine—it ought not, in its manner of obtaining external support for itself, to throw contempt upon the exercise of trust. It professes to make its exclusive appeal to the susceptibilities of love, it should not, therefore, rest upon the force represented by civil law, or, in other words, upon the sword of the magistrate. It undertakes to educate and train its members in these and other spiritual matters—to saturate them, if we may so say, with the spirit which itself exists to express; and to foster among them a disbelief in that spirit, even for the purpose, and with the result, of increasing its social or political influence, or of surrounding itself with means of temporal maintenance, is a mistake, and an offence against the first principles of Christian economy. This is the general range of truth we intend to illustrate in detail. We hope our readers will find some interest in the subject, and will deem the consideration of it both timely and profitable.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

A VERY serious crisis has arisen in respect to the denominational school-fee question. According to current belief, the religious difficulty in education was, to save bitter discussions and divisions in Parliament, relegated to the local school boards by the Act of 1870. It seems, however, that even the powers conferred by the 25th Clause are nominal rather than real. It enacts that school boards may, "if they think fit," in the bye-laws they adopt, provide for the payment of the fees of indigent children in any "elementary" school. We should have thought that the permission to pay implied permission to withhold. To several boards, however, notably those of Portsmouth and Walsall, which have sent up their bye-laws for sanction, the Education Department have replied in identical terms that, in the opinion of "My Lords," "it would not be just to deprive a parent of his right to choose the particular public elementary school to which he will send his child, because, while he is compelled by these bye-laws to send his child to school, he is unable from poverty to pay his school-fees." The bye-laws are, therefore, in each case sent back for reconsideration. Now, if the local boards are not to exercise the right conferred upon them in the Act, why was the right sanctioned by Parliament? Was it put in for purposes of deception? If not, is it seemly for the Education Department to take upon itself the responsibility of coercing the local boards? This is a very grave matter. "You may take what course you like in settling the religious difficulty, and you may settle it in accordance with the terms of the Act; but we can only interpret 'may' as 'must,'"—is, in effect, the response of the Education Department. Are they not usurping functions contrary to an Act of Parliament? Is it not plain, from this stereotyped reply, that "My Lords" are resolved, by every kind of pressure, to work the Act in the interests of the Denominationalists? We beg respectfully to ask whether that will be the reply of the Department should the London School Board, after the full discussion of the subject which is expected next month, venture to decline paying the fees of "indigent" children in sectarian and irresponsible schools?

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In one case, at least, "My Lords" have received a deserved rebuke. To their imperious injunction as to the course which ought to be pursued, the Portsmouth Board have, by seven to five, decided to send this rejoinder:—"That the clerk be instructed to inform the Education Department that the bye-law had received the anxious consideration of the board, and that the decision had been arrived at after a full discussion of all the circumstances, as well as the general principles affected by the section." The matter, so far as that borough is concerned, was put by the chairman (John Baker, Esq.) in a very clear and striking light. He said:—

"He had been a guardian for many years; and he assumed that the poor about whom the school board talked were those who received parish relief. Now in this union there were probably 5,000 persons receiving relief; out of which there were probably 2,000 children. He assumed that the parents of these 2,000 children were in real distress, and thus they were obliged to appeal to the common fund for sustenance. The cases of nearly all these children were met, the parents being compelled to send them to some school. In extreme cases, where the relief had not been enough to permit them to send them to school, a small addition had been made; but in very few cases had it been necessary, and the knowledge that compulsion had been placed on them had induced parents to send their children to school. If this were true, it would appear that the children for whom the board had to provide were those whose parents were reckless or wicked enough to neglect their children, but independent enough to remain off the rates. They were dealing with a very different class to the extreme poor; and what he wished the board to understand was, *that the children of paupers were at school, and that the children who did not attend school were those whose parents were in a position to maintain them, independent of relief and in a station of life in which it was their duty to pay.*

Now if this be a true statement of facts, and if Portsmouth be a fair specimen of our boroughs in general, it is evident that a large body of paupers (in respect to education) will be gratuitously created throughout the kingdom for the purpose of getting the fees of denominational schools paid out of the rates. And this is what the Education Department are striving, in violation of the spirit of the Act, to bring about.

"The pauper's conscience" is the plea for demanding outdoor relief to the denominations in education—a plea, the hollowness of which is thus sarcastically exposed in the *Birmingham Morning News* by a correspondent who signs himself "Lazarus Lazybones":—

"Here I am, only a pauper, dealing in matches, and a standing nuisance to every one until lately, when the clergy (Heaven bless them!) have found out that I have got a conscience, which, on the school board, is worth no end of money to the Church and Church schools, and which they intend lovingly to guard and keep, by making a bye-law on purpose, in spite of those wretched Dissenters. Mr. Editor, I feel a little elevated. Yesterday, an indigent parent; to-day, the master of the situation. What will they do with me and my sacred right of conscience?—that is the question of the hour. The high priests and the rulers take counsel together concerning me and my sacred rights of conscience. Yes, the ratepayers shall order themselves lowly and reverently, and bring me offerings now; for so the clergy order. "How kind *them* parsons *is* to me." Mine was not always kind; he would never buy my matches, and would send the beadle after me to push me in a corner of the free seats when I went to church. Why now so wondrous kind? Forgive the wicked thought, Mr. Editor; I hardly like to say it, but I fear he is taking this great care of my conscience only to make a profit out of it. Yes! yes! he wants to sell my sacred rights of conscience.

Our respected contemporary, the *Freeman*, seems to be a little distressed by having the cares of a great denomination (the Baptist) on his shoulders. Any excess of zeal or sensitiveness on the part of our contemporary is therefore to be allowed for. The *Freeman* is very sore about a paragraph which appeared in one of our recent American letters. "A Cosmopolitan," in the middle of one of his communications quoted from a United States paper the account of the drowning of Dr. A. P. Pownall while being baptized in a river; to which our correspondent added that travelling in Sweden he heard of persons who had lost their lives by being baptized after the ice had been broken for the purpose, and that the "fanatics were prosecuted and severely punished." It seems that the *Times*, *Leeds Mercury*, and other papers copied the paragraph with their own side-heading. Our contemporary is scandalised, and, declining "to refute a sneer," deplores that "respectable advocates of sprinkling should descend to such vulgar methods of holding up to ridicule a rite which it is impossible for any educated Christian now to attack directly." The whole tone of the *Freeman's* comment would seem to imply that the paragraph—which, as we have said, appeared originally in our columns—was inserted in order to ridicule immersion. This is a very absurd and unjust conclusion—only to be excused on the ground we have stated. Who *are* "the respectable advocates of sprinkling"? The *Freeman* must know perfectly well that neither "sprinkling" nor "immersion" are advocated in our columns. We have ever been neutral on the subject, else we should not be able to number among our subscribers many influential members of the Baptist body. It appears to us that our contemporary would have acted more wisely in deploring the fatal and "superstitious"—as he admits—abuse of a rite which neither the *Nonconformist* nor the *Leeds Mercury* would dream of ridiculing, than in expending so much superfluous indignation, and presenting himself to the world as the champion of immersion when no one was assailing it.

Since writing the above, we have received a letter from Belfast signed "Paul F. Galbrausen," challenging the truth of our American correspondent's statement relative to Sweden. He writes:—"I have been acquainted with the Baptists in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and North Germany since the year 1856, as well as with other churches which practise baptism in the same manner, but I have never heard of a single instance of even a cold being caused thereby. I know many instances when they, even in the midst of a severe winter, have had to cut holes in the ice, for the purpose of complying with the commands of Jesus." Mr. Galbrausen demands details of the cases referred to. All we can say is that his letter shall be forwarded to our American correspondent, who will, we doubt not, be able in due time to make good his statement.

The correspondence of the *Guardian* is generally instructive—even at this dull period—for the light which it often throws upon the inner life of the Established Church. As may be supposed, the Bishop of Manchester's recent and scathing denunciation of the sale of next presentations is a fruitful topic of controversy in the pages of our contemporary. One correspondent objects to the display of "oratorical indignation" on the sale of advowsons as tending to discredit lay patronage altogether; another denounces all ecclesiastical patronage, "whether openly claimed as property, exercised as a privilege of office, or disguised under the appellation of a 'high and solemn trust,'" as "a radical abuse, a monstrous evil, subversive of true religion," and he goes in for the free election of bishops, and the appointment to the cure of souls by the bishop with the concurrence of his Diocesan Synod; a third shrewdly speaks of the sale of livings as "the necessary result of nepotism." The Rev. F. Jourdain, M.A., presents the Episcopal Bench in their exercise of patronage in the following light:—

"The hardworking curate who expects promotion from headquarters is, in fact, a "bore," and great is the relief depicted on Episcopal countenances when it is announced that some good Samaritan has offered a small cure in another diocese to the deserving priest. "May God's blessing attend you *wherever* you go" is the authorised formula in such cases, which might be further amplified, "so that you look not to me again for advancement." The late excellent Bishop Kaye, of Lincoln, had, I believe, a sensitive conscience in the matter of patronage; his views, however, are not fully endorsed by his brethren of the Episcopate. Public patronage in right of their sees is by many regarded as private emolument; it is an easy mode for dowering daughters and providing for sons and relatives.

While "A Yorkshire Curate" lauds his diocesan for promoting his own clergy and curates to the benefices in his gift, another correspondent deplores that His Grace of Canterbury ignores their claims; and "Z." points to the disagreeable fact "that large numbers of the clergy of the Establishment dare not entertain the most vague hope of obtaining preferment. In their case the probabilities are that after a long period of privation they will be flung aside literally to starve, as no incumbent is bound to maintain a worn-out curate." The Romish priest, he bitterly says, gets preferment, the Wesleyan minister attains to a permanent position of independence—in fact, "the ministers of every Christian communion are provided for, not only during their years of work, but also when 'their work is done,' except the *infirm* clergy of the Establishment—*i.e.*, the curates, who are also compelled to submit to the humiliation of advertising for appointments, just in the same way as footmen and shopmen and commercial clerks are." Another high-minded curate, who speaks of himself as "Among the Herdsmen," thus describes his hard lot:—

"I have been eight years in my present post, virtually a sole charge. I have gradually worked up to a weekly celebration from three times a year, and have established daily prayers. I did not sleep one night out of the parish for three years, and have been only three Sundays from home in the eight years, and then I paid for my substitute. I never had a complaint of any kind from my incumbent. I have always preached twice each Sunday, and for six months in the year three times, the latter a voluntary service, and have had besides frequent services in Lent and Advent, well attended, and provided hospitality for the preachers. My congregation is far above the average of my neighbours. Now, without any previous complaint, I am told it will be for the benefit of the place I should seek another curacy. I must break up my home, dispose of half my household gods, and go forth at middle age to seek a new home. I sent my rector's letters to my bishop, and he thinks them "most frivolous," and will, if I wish, refuse to sanction my ejection; but I have, sir, too much love for the Church to place myself in antagonism to my rector before his people, although he lives some miles away. My own and my wife's friends and trustees urge on me the purchase of an advowson, and so be rid of this tyranny. There is much in what the "Incumbent of a Private Living" writes, but I have a strong aversion to this course. I shall try once more as a curate, and if I again become the victim of my incumbent's caprice, I shall retire from the curates' list and take "hack" work—my house at least will then be a matter of £ s. d. with my landlord. I will not buy a living; but I would gladly accept a poor benefice, in however poor a neighbourhood, with a curate's stipend of 100*l.* a year attached, and labour therein diligently.

When we find bishops denouncing the sale of next presentations; vicars complaining of Episcopal nepotism and "the flagrant scandals and intolerable evils under which our Church is now suffering"; and curates sadly bewailing the tyranny of incumbents, it is not very easy to accept Mr. Gladstone's and Sir Roundell Palmer's glowing pictures of the admirable working of the State-Church. "How is it," asks a despairing correspondent of the *Guardian*, "that the Church of England is unlike all other Churches—or sects, if you choose—in the treatment of her ministers?" Is it not because her legal position as an Establishment, and her State endowments are inevitably based on money and property considerations? What more damaging proof of the injurious working of the Church of England—a professedly spiritual institution for the spread of Christianity—can be adduced by Nonconformists than these ingenuous complaints of her own clergy?

If the Nationalists or repealers of Ireland had their way, what would be the result? Mr. Martin and his friends will give you a brilliant picture of a Utopian Ireland. Less sanguine people would be disposed to point to New York where the Irish, under the auspices of the Tammany Ring, are omnipotent. In that great city corruption and fraud on the most gigantic scale rule with impunity not only in political, but ecclesiastical affairs, as the letter of our American correspondent given below will show. We are told by the "State Council of Political Reform" in New York, that more than half a million of dollars are given from the State Treasury to Catholic churches and schools, and that three millions of dollars worth of public property has been applied to their use. "No wonder," says our correspondent, "that the Catholics erect magnificent cathedrals, and boast of their influence and power, when they were pocketing millions of dollars from the State Treasury." Would not the Irish Catholics at home, being in the proportion of four to one, be disposed to pursue a like course if an Irish Parliament were in existence?

THE DOLLINGER MOVEMENT AND RELIGION IN GERMANY.

We are indebted for the following interesting communication to an esteemed correspondent who has lately been on a visit to Germany:—

"In travelling through Germany this summer, I was very curious to get information on two points—What was likely to come of the Döllinger movement? And what was likely to be the religious influence of the French war? My opportunities of getting information were not very great; but still I conversed on the subjects with several men of position, and it may interest your readers to know what view they took. I had a long conversation with an eminent Roman Catholic professor, who was one of the deputies at the conference held in Heidelberg. This same professor has belonged for some years to the Liberal party. His opinion was, as it seemed to me, as characteristic as it was correct. He said—'We are waiting to see what the Governments will do. If they declare openly and distinctly that they will protect priests, teachers, and professors, who refuse to accept and teach the new dogma, then I have no doubt a great many will take position on the subject and our party will become numerous and strong. If, however, they do not, then I know not what will be the upshot. You see, it is a hard thing for a man to have to give up his office and livelihood. One can scarcely wonder at or condemn their hesitation.' This opinion was confirmed afterwards in other directions. There seems to be a total lack in the party of the stuff that martyrs, confessors, and reformers are made of. There is no real religious enthusiasm. I have no doubt the convictions of men like Döllinger are sincere and strong; but they are more intellectual and theological than practical and religious convictions. There does not seem to be much, if any, of the feeling—'Here is a struggle

for life and death, for time and eternity; woe is us if we do not at all hazards bear witness to the truth!' And without something of this kind the masses will remain unmoved. As a matter of fact, too, the masses of the people take little or no interest in the movement. Nor, as several agreed with me in thinking, can they be expected to do so; for after all, the dogma is but the promulgation of the inarticulated belief of the common people as implicitly taught them by their priests; or if one were unwilling to go so far as this, it is the logical outcome of the position and authority *practically* assigned to the Pope for generations. Here lies the weakness of the so-called 'Old Catholics,' the strength of the Ultramontanes. I was told, too, that the Bavarian Government in particular was indisposed to move until they know exactly whither they are to move. They are saying to the Döllinger party—'What is it exactly you want? What are your plans? What do you propose?' And until they can present a definite scheme which expresses not only their own wishes but the wishes of the people, things will remain in *statu quo*.* I for my part do not anticipate great results from the movement. It may and will further the general disintegration of belief that is going on among the educated middle-classes; but it will not end in the formation of a Reformed Catholic Church. This too is the impression of eminent Protestants. I fear too that when the lower classes of Roman Catholics in Germany once begin to taste of enlightenment they will not pass from superstition to belief, but from superstition to unbelief. There is more hope in this respect, far more hope, for Spain; more even for Italy; because in these two countries anti-Christian culture and science hold a far less prominent position than they do in Germany.

"The other point I referred to was the religious influence of the French war. In many individual cases, I have no doubt the sorrow and suffering and bereavements by which it has been attended have produced a salutary effect in turning the thoughts to the God who had been little heeded in the day of prosperity. But I do not believe that any great revival of Christian life will be the result. On the contrary, unless I am very greatly mistaken, unbelief and scepticism will in the end be strengthened. In conversations I had with men who have abundant opportunities of judging, I put this question:—'Don't you think that your scientific antagonists, and their freethinking supporters and disciples, will reason as follows?—Our people have and had little faith in orthodox Christianity; but they have good schooling; their schooling is seconded and utilised by science; and here is the secret of the excellence and power of our nation and of the successes we have achieved. Consequently, we do not want your Christianity; it is antiquated; what we want is more schooling, more science.' The answers I received were to the effect that there were already signs of this being the case. I may be mistaken, but I fear I am not, in my apprehension that the Christianity and Church of Germany have by no means as yet seen their worst days, as far as numbers are concerned. The day is rapidly approaching when the Church will be separated from the civil authorities, and have to depend on its own resources, if not as to money, yet as to influence; and the German Church will feel the separation very differently from the English Church. The latter will benefit by the change, the former will have to bewail, I believe, a tremendous apostasy. At present, all who have not formally, before the civil authorities, declared their purpose to renounce their membership in the State Church, are compelled to send their children to be baptized and to be confirmed. If they do not bring them themselves, the police first give them warning, and then, if the warning is unheeded, fetch them. No protestations of unbelief can help them. The effect of such a state of the law is that, at all events, the children are brought up to a certain age under Christian influence and teaching. But let this law be abolished, and the immediate result will be that in thousands of cases the children will not be baptised; still less will they be sent for confirmation and the instruction that precedes; and so a population will grow up in utter unbelief. For there are few Sunday schools; the churches are empty; and the laity are few who can be said to wield a direct spiritual influence. Even now the extent to which unbelief is laying hold on the children of the better working and middle classes is appalling. I was told myself by the principal of a school for the better class of girls, that it is not at all uncommon for little children to meet the religious lessons by such expressions as—'Oh! that is not true; nobody believes that Biblical story now-a-days.' You will think I see very black, but I do not believe I go one whit further in my forebodings than the more intelligent and farsighted of the believing clergy themselves. Nay, I know from their own lips that they are ready to groan and weep over the melancholy condition of the Church to which they belong. They, of course, and I, too, firmly believe in the eventual triumph of Christianity; but for the present the prospect is mournfully dark. To a very considerable extent, there can be no doubt that the alliance of the *Church authorities* with the *civil authorities* (I wish we could get rid of the unfortunate and most inaccurate phrase in this connection, alliance of *Church and State;* the alliance of Church and State is our object, and this our object is invariably frustrated by an alliance of ecclesiastical and civil authorities) has brought about this state of things, and until it is dissolved no serious improvement can be expected. Intelligent and believing laymen are rapidly arriving at the conclusion that until the clergy are compelled to be dependent on, and are made really answerable to their people in a way that is impossible at present, there can be no improvement. But time presses, and I must close here. If possible, I will resume the subject in another communication.

L. T. S.

* Since this was written, news has come that the Bavarian Government has taken up a bolder position; but I do not believe that the ecclesiastical or religious results will be of any great consequence.

A Munich correspondent of the *Times* sends an interesting letter on the Catholic conflict in Bavaria. He says that even after the advent of a new ministry in place of the Bray Cabinet, it was doubtful what course the Government would take, and that great was the consternation of the Clericals and the satisfaction of the Liberals when, two days ago, a letter of the Minister of Public Worship to the Archbishop of Munich appeared, dated the 27th of August, which throws down the gauntlet to the Clerical party, or rather takes up that thrown down by the latter. The letter is a long and elaborate refutation of the arguments put forward by the Bishops of Bavaria to justify their proceedings against Döllinger and others who would not submit and recognise the dogma of Infallibility. It declares the dogma to be an innovation dangerous and adverse to the interests of the State; it upholds the Royal right of the *Placetum*, and promises its protection to those who may incur the displeasure of the Episcopate by their resistance to the new dogma.

According to all appearances, this step of the Bavarian Minister marks but the beginning of an organised resistance against the pretensions of the clerical party all over Germany. The Bavarian Minister of Public Worship has had an interview of late with the German Chancellor, and it is not likely that he would have adventured on such a decided step without being sure that there was an intention of acting in the same direction on the part of the Prussian Government. Moreover, the influence of the initiative taken by the Bavarian Government in this question can scarcely be overrated. Nowhere is clerical influence stronger than it is here, and if in spite of this the Bavarian Government could muster courage to face it, others can scarcely continue that policy of trimming which they have been following hitherto. On the other side, it is likely to encourage the Liberals, or as they call themselves with regard to the new dogma the "Old Catholics," to persevere in their opposition.

The letter in question is very elaborate. It states that the publication, without official permission, of the dogma of infallibility and the syllabus, is a direct threat of the Bavarian public right, for this is not rooted in the Concordat, but in the Bavarian Constitution. As, therefore, the Bavarian Government is of opinion that the personal infallibility of the Pope is incompatible with the existing constitution, it is the duty of the Government to ward off the dangerous effects of this innovation. The nearest means at hand is the "*Placetum Regium.*" By applying this right the Government does not violate the constitutional rights of the Church, for all rights the Church has under the constitution are given to it with and side by side with the *Placetum.* The Bavarian Government upholds the principle that the Bavarian archbishops and bishops are subject, like every one else, to the laws of the kingdom. The danger threatening the constitution, and the violation by the bishops of the laws of the kingdom, force the Government to measures which it would have liked to avoid. It will refuse its assistance to the propagation of the new doctrine, and to the carrying out of those provisions which may be made in consequence of the new doctrine; it will hold fast to the principle that the decisions which the Church authorities might take with regard to those who do not recognise the new dogma can have no effect in civil and political matters, and, if necessary, it will take measures to insure the independence of the members of the Church against clerical pressure. The letter is very decided in its tone. Composed as the Chambers are now, adds the writer, there is but little doubt that the step taken by the Ministers will be approved by the majority.

According to the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, Prince Bismarck, it appears, is endeavouring to conciliate the Ultramontanes, and the better to effect his object has called Count Beust to his help. The writer says:—

The attacks of the Ultramontane party have become more frequent than ever, and their antagonism speedily assumed a character in which hatred was indiscreetly coupled with a woeful over-estimation of their strength. There is nothing in this canonical hostility to disquiet Prince Bismark. Nine-tenths of the educated Catholics of this country cordially approve the political changes effected by the Chancellor, and are opposed to the claims and tenets put forward by the ardent defenders of infallibility. Among the Catholic masses, too, there is a good deal of religious indifference, relieved by a dash of religious enlightenment, which, while repudiating the teachings of Rome, is yearning for some more modern and less controversial form of faith. But side by side with these numerous classes who have slipped away from sacerdotal control there are others more ignorant, more *naive*, and, accordingly, more easily managed by the parish priests. But that we live in a democratic age they would be of no account whatsoever. At a period when the pretensions of the lower orders have so rapidly increased and been so leniently put up with by their betters, even a Bismark may deem it worth his while to conciliate those who, at any rate in extensive districts, are the spiritual lords of the many-headed sovereign people. Their political opposition, though it certainly can never be dangerous, may yet become inconvenient; and, by producing a violent reaction among the more cultivated members of the Papal flock, it may moreover conjure up a religious crisis, to overcome and utilise which the age is perhaps insufficiently prepared.

The Prince, with a view to conciliate the Ultramontanes, has, it is said, proposed that Count Beust should join him in inviting Italy to accord to the Pope certain concessions which, while they left Victor Emmanuel paramount in Rome, might yet render life in the sacred city more endurable to its ancient Sovereign. The proposed concessions are thus shadowed forth by the correspondent:—

What if the Italian law guaranteeing his spiritual independence were to be at least fully carried out, or even to be made somewhat more advantageous to the occupant of the ecclesiastical throne? What if, in the interest of his religious authority, the operation of that other statute enacted by the Italian Parliament which authorises the secularisation of convents were not to be extended to Rome? Of course, Italy would have to be asked in the most courteous and deferential language if she would be a party to any such bargain. Perhaps she would oblige Germany, and with Germany all Europe, by accepting suggestions intended to restore peace at the centre of the Catholic hierarchy; at any rate, if applied to in proper form, she would not misunderstand the motives prompting the request. To these overtures the Austrian Premier lent a willing ear. By accepting them two advantages would be secured to himself. By befriending the Pope he would oblige the Slavo-Ultramontane party just elevated to power in the Cisleithan Cabinet of the Austrian monarchy; by co-operating with Prince Bismark he at the same time would establish a certain connection with Germany which would counteract those Roman and Gallic proclivities of his Czecho-Catholic colleagues that might otherwise have a tendency to involve him in a rather slippery course of foreign politics. Recent intelligence from the south justifies the assumption that the views of Count Beust were approved by Francis Joseph, and that there is some probability that an understanding will be effected in to-day's Imperial meeting at Salzburg. Such a result is the more likely as the Italian Government have given symptoms of being inclined to take the advice intended to be submitted to them.

The Munich Conference of Old Catholics meets on the 22nd inst. and two following days in the hall of the Museum. A circular issued by the convening committee says:—

The Congress will divide into deliberative and public sittings.

In the deliberative sittings,—to which the members of the Munich Committee, the delegates of all other Alt-Catholic committees, and those who have been specially invited, have admittance with power to vote, —the programme and organisation of the Church reform movement will be fixed; while in the public sittings, which will consist of lectures (admission to which is by tickets), the spirit and aim of the same will be stated to the public.

In the last open meeting a public declaration of the same as to the object of the agitation will be delivered by a speaker, and substantiated and submitted for general acceptance.

The Catholic priest at Trèves has been sentenced to six months' confinement in a fortress for publicly, in the pulpit, using treasonable language against the Emperor, and likening him to Beelzebub.

As so large a number of students of theology have quitted the College at Lucerne on account of their inability to accept the new dogma of infallibility, the *Swiss Times* says there is every reason to believe that the school of theology will next session number more professors than students.

An autograph letter from the Emperor-King, in which His Majesty expressed disapproval of the attitude of the Catholic Episcopacy in reference to the promulgation of the dogma of Infallibility, was read on Monday at Pesth before the assembled ministers and Bishop Jekelfalusy. The latter announced his submission to the Royal commands.

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL FEES.

THE MERTHYR MEMORIAL.

The following memorial, very numerously and influentially signed, and containing the signatures of fifteen ministers of the Gospel residing in Merthyr and Dowlais, was recently presented to the school board of Merthyr:—

To the Merthyr Tydvil School Board.

We, the undersigned, being ministers and members of various Nonconformist congregations in the parish of Merthyr Tydvil, desire to express our satisfaction at the

prospect of having a much more general and efficient educational system in this parish than it has ever enjoyed.

At the same time, several circumstances which have come to our knowledge have satisfied us of the necessity of respectfully reminding your board that when we plead for education for the neglected children of this district, we never desired to have it, nor thought it necessary to have it, at the expense of our religious convictions, or in disregard of the rights and claims of conscience.

We are aware that the Elementary Education Act gives your board a permissive power to pay out of the rates levied upon the parish the fees of poor children attending denominational schools. We trust, however, that your board will never take advantage of this permissive power, for the application of it, even in a single instance, would be a direct violation of the principles to which the great majority of our townsmen are attached.

We may be allowed to remind your board that even should its bye-laws contain a clause providing for the compulsory attendance of children at schools, it by no means follows that they should contain a clause providing for the payment of the fees of very poor children at the denominational school. The Education Act does not require this to be done, and it may, we believe, be successfully carried out without any such arrangement; but even if compulsory powers could not be adopted without involving the payment of rates in the shape of fees to denominational schools, we submit that we would rather have no compulsion than have it on such obnoxious terms.

We would remind your board that there are only two denominations in the parish which will reap any benefit from the adoption of the 25th clause of the Elementary Education Act—the Roman Catholic and the Church of England. Nonconformists have not a single State-aided school in which their distinctive principles are taught, nor will their principles allow them to take money from the public purse, to be used, directly or indirectly, for a denominational institution. We have therefore good reason to protest against every proposal to pay away the rates of the whole community to two religious denominations.

We admit that, in some cases, a parent may possibly object to send his child to any but a denominational school, and he may even plead conscience as a reason for not accepting free education for his child at a board school, should your board see fit to decline to make provision for the free education of his child at a denominational school; but we, as Protestant Nonconformists, most decidedly object to have our rates applied to the support of institutions avowedly built and carried on for the instruction of children in religious principles from which we conscientiously dissent.

Even if a parent, too poor to pay the requisite fees, should refuse on conscientious grounds to send his child to a board school, the payment of these fees by the board, so as to secure the admission of a child to a denominational school, will not remove conscientious scruples, for the ratepayer has a conscience entitled to the respect of those who spend his money; and we are at a loss to know why the conscience of a person who, so far as the Education Act is concerned, will virtually be a pauper, should be respected, while the conscience of those who have to pay the rates is violated. We are strongly of opinion that, should the board not see its way to compel such a parent, unless it can make provision for his child's education out of the rates, it would be better not to enforce attendance, but to leave the parent to settle the difficulty the best way he can with the managers of the school which he prefers. We believe that in such a case the managers will rather receive the child than let it be neglected altogether; but even should the child suffer in consequence of the parent's conscientious scruples, it will suffer, not because the ratepayers have refused to provide for it all the education that ratepayers, as such, can be justly asked or expected to provide, but because of the conduct—justifiable or not justifiable—of its own parent.

We are aware that Parliament gives grants of public money to denominational schools, but without expressing an opinion as to the wisdom, ingenuousness, or justice of the policy, we cannot overlook the fact that it is expressly stipulated that such grants will be paid for secular results, and for those alone, that they are paid after an examination in secular subjects, and according to the results obtained; whereas the fees will not be paid for secular results, seeing that the board, if they pay them at all, must pay them irrespective of all results—in short, merely on the ground of the poverty of the parent, and without any means of ascertaining to what purposes they are applied.

We would remind the board that while Parliament gives grants of public money to denominational schools, it reserves to itself the right to inspect those schools at all hours, and exercises control over them, while, if the rates be given to the managers of such schools, the ratepayers will be required to support institutions over which they will have no control, from whose management even the school board will be excluded, and into which no ratepayer or member of the school board, as such, will have any right to enter. We consider it monstrous to apply public money to private purposes into which the public will not have any right to inquire.

We would further ask your board to observe that, as Parliament makes grants to schools for secular results only, any religious teaching given in them will of necessity be provided for out of the fees. This may be proved almost to demonstration, for, according to a high authority—Mr. Chadwick—the average cost of education in a school of 400 children should be £1 per head per annum. Of this, Government will, according to the New Code, pay one-half, and, supposing the fees to average threepence a week for forty-four weeks in the year, they will amount to eleven shillings per head. That is to say, the grants and the fees together will amount to twenty-one shillings per annum for each child—allowing for only threepence a week, and forty-four weeks in the year—and that is, one shilling in excess of Mr. Chadwick's estimate.

To take an illustration from our own doors, the Catholic Schools in Merthyr have an attendance of upwards of 400 children, and, according to a statement into the accuracy of which we have carefully inquired, very few of these children pay fees; so that, if your board were to pay the fees of the poor children attending these schools, the result would be that the schools would be supported mainly out of the public funds, and would not require a single farthing in the shape of voluntary subscriptions. It is clear that in such a case it will be quite preposterous to argue that neither the Government grants nor the local rates will be paid for denominational purposes; for, as a matter of fact, the master and mistress, engaged to give denominational as well as secular instruction, will be paid chiefly out of public funds, and whatever apparatus or books may be required for religious purposes will have to come from the same source. It is therefore obvious that the fees, if not the grants, will be given for religious, not to say sectarian, purposes.

We admit that it would be a violation of a poor man's rights to force him to send his child to a Protestant school if he himself were a Catholic, or to a Catholic school if he were a Protestant; but as school board schools will presumably be neither Protestant, Jewish, nor Catholic, and will have no religious tests imposed upon their teachers, there will be nothing in these schools to which a Catholic any more than a Protestant, or a Protestant any more than a Catholic, can conscientiously object.

We would remind your board that no parent will prefer a denominational school for his child on conscientious grounds, unless it be for the purpose of securing the child the denominational teaching and influence imparted in the school, and therefore any fees paid for such child being paid to the school managers out of deference to the parent's choice, will unquestionably be paid for the religious or denominational instruction to be received.

We would remind your board that if the adherents of two denominations be allowed to choose a denominational school for their children, and have the fees of such children paid for by your board, the same choice must, in all fairness, be extended to the adherents of all denominations, so that their objection to board schools, or to any but schools belonging to their own denomination, must be held valid, or else schools of their own denomination must be provided for them; and your board must know that national education will, on this principle, become utterly impossible.

We believe that if those managers of denominational schools who wish to have rates for educating poor children were sincere in their profession of wishing to have public money for merely secular uses, they would place their schools under the board, on condition that they should have the use of the rooms out of school hours for denominational purposes.

For these and other reasons, we beg to protest against any proposal to apply the rates of the parish to any but board schools, and we trust that your board will never sanction such an abuse of public money; but should your board do otherwise, we think it right to state that its decision will not be accepted outside as a final settlement, but that we shall feel bound to use every means in our power to obtain a reversal of the decision.

Notwithstanding this memorial, the board decided on adopting the bye-law providing for the payment of the fees of children in denominational schools.

In presenting the above memorial to the Merthyr School Board, the Rev. F. S. Johnstone said, in the course of his speech, "We do not come here to threaten the board, for by so doing we consider we should not be paying it the respect it deserve, and the respect which we hope the ratepayers will always show it; but we trust the board will not misunderstand us when we say that it will be utterly impossible for us to accept the decision, even of Parliament, upon this matter. We have had to fight the question of Church-rates, and we had to get Parliament to repeal that law, and we shall feel obliged to do the same thing in taking up this question. We, therefore, trust the board will not put us in such an unpleasant position."

THE NEW CHURCH RATE.

(From the *National Education League Monthly Paper.*)

The following handbill and memorial are being circulated in Birmingham. We understand that the memorial has already been extensively signed, and from our knowledge of public feeling upon the question, we have no doubt it will receive the support of the great majority of ratepayers:—

To the Inhabitants of Birmingham.

The school board have adopted a bye-law under which a portion of the public rates can be applied to the support of schools in which sectarian doctrines are taught, and which are maintained, in opposition to the establishment of a national system of education, for the main purpose of spreading those sectarian doctrines.

While freely acknowledging the right of all religious bodies to propagate their faith by their own voluntary efforts, to aid them from the rates is surely a misuse of public money.

It is much more objectionable in principle than the condemned and abandoned Church-rate, since a part of that went to maintain those ancient fabrics which are among the historical treasures of the nation, and are valued by men of all opinions. This proposed aid from the rates to sectarian schools will be used for the purpose of teaching particular doctrines which many of the ratepayers do not believe, and strongly object to; and to use their money for such a purpose is a gross violation of religious liberty.

To say that parents may wish to have their children instructed in these particular doctrines is no answer to our objection. We admit their right to have them so taught, *but not at the public cost.* Neither does the conscience clause meet our case, as it recognises the parent's scruples but ignores those of the ratepayer.

There is another very grave objection to such aid being given, in that the schools so aided will not be under the supervision or control of the board, or of any body representing the ratepayers. To hand over a large part of the education rate, without condition or equivalent, to bodies who are under no sort of responsibility to the ratepayers, and who will employ it in a manner contrary to the wishes of a large number of them, is unwarrantable in the highest degree.

Should this bye-law be acted upon, and a rate be attempted to be enforced, resistance to it may certainly be expected. The desire of the people, so often expressed, to see new public superior schools of an unsectarian character established with that public fund which is at the disposal of the board, and the disappointment of seeing it turned over so largely to private interests for sectarian purposes, will lead, we fear, to a deep and wide-spread feeling of exasperation, heightened by the consciousness on the part of the ratepayers of being taken by surprise.

The question of such a possible disposal of the rate was not brought before the electors by any of the members of the school board in their election addresses or speeches. Had it been distinctly stated that out of the new rate about to be levied for public schools, it was intended to appropriate a large sum to the support of denominational teaching in schools attached to places of worship, we feel sure that the electors would have effectually prevented such an intention by their votes.

To the Birmingham School Board.

We, the undersigned, being inhabitants of the Borough of Birmingham, beg respectfully to protest against that portion of your bye-laws which permits the application of public money to the support of sectarian schools, over which the ratepayers have no control, as a violation of the principles of civil and religious liberty, which we believe will provoke determined and conscientious resistance. We therefore entreat you not to carry such bye-laws into effect.

N.B.—Both sexes are invited to sign. No signatures accepted of persons under eighteen years of age.

LEICESTER.

At the meeting of the Leicester School Board on the 4th inst., the Rev. A. A. ISAACS moved:—

That the recent investigation into the state of elementary education in the borough, and the means of carrying out the same, having rendered it apparent that the average attendance of children, between the ages of five and thirteen, is much below the capacity of the existing schools, the board carry out the provisions of the 74th Section of the Elementary Education Act for the payment of the fees of any child where the parent satisfies the school board that he is unable from poverty to pay the same; provided always that such weekly fees do not exceed 3d. in infant and 4d. in other schools, and that such children produce certificates of their regular weekly attendance at school.

The subject had, he said, been under the consideration of other boards, and some of the principal boards had adopted a similar course. The conclusion these boards had arrived at, and particularly Liverpool, had been a matter of appeal to Mr. Forster, and he had most clearly pointed out that they were only carrying out their functions, and that all they did was in harmony with the Education Act. With regard to the Act, it was perfectly clear that it gave them power to pursue the courses embodied in the motion. The question arose upon what ground the House of Commons give this power to pay fees. He conceived one great object was to provide against the oppressive superiority of school boards. If the school boards had a power of remitting fees in their own schools, and no power to pay fees in denominational schools, it would give such a superiority to the school board schools that it would put other schools at a serious disadvantage. Then, again, it was to provide against an unnecessarily burdensome tax, which would necessarily follow unless this principle was pursued. If the remission of fees were confined to schools supported by the board, the more of necessity would children flock to those schools, and it would be necessary to provide additional school buildings, and all the expenses connected with them. Their duty was to put the denominational schools on an equality with the board schools.

The Rev. R. HARLEY proposed as an amendment:—

That the first business of the board is to provide sufficient accommodation for public elementary education in the borough, and that until further progress has been made towards the accomplishment of this object, it will be inconvenient and inexpedient to deal with the question how to meet the case of children whose parents are unable from poverty to pay the school fees.

Mr. Isaacs' motion, he said, was based ostensibly upon the result of the recent investigation into the state of elementary education in this borough, and the means of carrying out the same. He was perfectly prepared to abide by the results of these inquiries, and all the consequences that flowed from those results. The first general fact arising out of them was that the efficient school accommodation, existing and prospective, fell very far short of the actual requirements of the borough. The second general fact brought to light by their inquiries was that the average attendance in the existing schools fell far below the actual accommodation. Since that board had been formed there had been, he was told, a considerable reduction in the scale of fees in many of the schools. Now, all this afforded a corroboration of his argument, for it clearly showed that the irregularity of attendance on the part of the children did not arise from the poverty of the parents, but was due to some other cause. Could it be, then, that the managers of those schools so largely subsided by Government grants, wanted them to pay out of the rates the fees which they now remitted? If so, let them put their application in distinct form, and they would know how to deal with it. With schools properly distributed in the town for 4,800 children, it was perfectly certain that no child would need to walk more than half-a-mile or three-quarters of a mile, in order to reach one of them. The Baptists and Independents had no schools of their own. Did they wish him to explain the reason why? Well, it would open up a long story of injustice and wrong. They entertained conscientious objections to taking public money for the promotion of their theological opinions, and they objected to other people using public money for the promotion of theirs. By the operation of the system of Parliamentary grants their schools, as was foreseen and predicted, had been closed, and they had been prevented from taking the share which they otherwise would in the education of the poor. They had ever been taunted with being indifferent

to education. But he would not dwell upon that. They pledged themselves to offer the most uncompromising opposition to all and every attempt to make use of public money—that was, money raised either by takes or by rates—for denominational purposes. And as Mr. Isaacs had challenged them on the broader ground of imperial taxation, they would take it up, even though they were beaten as they were twenty-five years ago. With regard to Mr. Isaacs' statement that Church of England schools were only denominational in the sense that they were supported by denominationalists, he found that nine of them were connected with the National Society. This National Society was for the education of the children of the poor. Was it to give them a sound, secular instruction? He had no doubt that that was included, but it was to educate them in ths principles of the Church of England. He could not understand how gentlemen could get up and make such an assertion, knowing that that was the case. There were things taught—as, for instance, the catechism—[Mr. ISAACS: "We don't teach it in our schools."] Then all he could say was that Mr. Isaacs ought to put his schools at once under the School Board. There was no part of their work that would require more care and discrimination than the matter of excusing parents from paying their children's fees. Let the principle be affirmed, and many would claim exemption, who, if they were industrious and sober, would not need exemption at all. He considered it wholly wrong to tax the honest, hard-working, self-denying poor man, who educated his own children, for the expense of educating the children of drunken and dissolute parents. The social difficulties that surrounded this subject were enormous; and if they were going to discuss and settle all those before they built a single school, it would be many a long day before they made the necessary provision for Leicester. The Act under which they were constituted as a board was passed expressly to provide sufficient accommodation for public elementary education, and they would be guilty of a gross direliction of duty if they did not set themselves earnestly and resolutely, first of all, to the accomplishment of that object. When they were brought face to face with the problem how to meet the case of children whose parents were unable to pay the school fees, there were three possible courses open to them. They might build a free school, or they might remit the fees in their own schools, or they might take the course proposed by Mr. Isaacs—pay fees in other schools. The last was, on many grounds, the most objectionable course of the three: it was the most expensive; it was inexpedient; and it was unjust. Mr. Chadwick estimated the cost in a school for 400 children (and he hoped the board would not build smaller schools) was 1*l.* per annum per child. Under the new regulations, they could hardly have a Government grant of less than from 12s. to 14s. per child. The undenominational schools in Leicester, he found, averaged 10s. 6d. last year; and if they built large schools, in which the teachers were efficient, they could not fail to get a larger grant than that—say, 12s.; which would leave 8s., or 2d. per week, to come from the rates. Mr. Isaacs asked 16s. for schools which would get a Government grant for every child sent to them. It would, therefore, be cheaper to remit fees in school board schools than to pay them in denominational schools. It was impossible for them to discuss this question intelligently and satisfactorily until they had settled a number of preliminary questions. It would be cheaper to remit fees in their own schools than to pay fees in other schools. It would be a huge blunder on the part of the board, he believed, if they did not build large schools. If they did that, they would carry out their work more cheaply than if they adopted the course indicated by Mr. Isaacs. These discussions on the religious difficulty connected with rate-paid schools were the necessary fruit of the Act of Parliament which they had to administer. Mr. Gladstone told them that he had severed the tie between the denominational schools and the board schools, but Mr. Isaacs and those who thought with him wished to connect them by means of the payment of fees. Mr. Isaacs' proposal concentrated their first care upon those who had some one to take care of them. His amendment asked them to care first for those who had no one to care for them.

Mr. MERRICK, in seconding the amendment, said he thought the first business of the board to be the providing of accommodation for the 5,000 children it had been ascertained required provision within the borough. Then there was amongst the working classes, however much Mr. Isaacs might ignore the fact, a feeling of objection to Church of England schools. (No, no.) They objected to the teaching of catechisms and collects which had obtained prior to the passing of the Elementary Education Act, and he could say, for his own part, having received his education in St. Margaret's charity school, that there was a good deal of the time of the children which ought to be devoted to educational improvement occupied in learning those catechisms and that sort of thing. Many children who had attended day-schools ought to have attained a higher standard of education than they had done considering the time they had been there. No doubt a great deal of this was attributable to want of attention on the part of the scholar, but he also thought a great deal of it was owing to the fact that inefficient teachers were employed, and that there had not been that application of effort to bring out the mental abilities of the children there ought to have been. He objected to Mr. Isaacs' motion because it would be gratifying denominational selfishness. This was an element which had developed itself very largely during the last twelve months. Since the passing of the Elementary Education Act denominationalists had been very busy. Mr. Isaacs' resolution, if carried, would support those schools which, more than ever, would seek to enforce their own particular theological views. He had seen an article in a paper in reference to the society Mr. Harley had alluded to, and he was struck with the injunctions given by it. They were to the effect that as the Government only allowed an hour for the reading of the Scriptures either at the beginning or ending of school hours, teachers in denominational schools must avail of that opportunity and instil into the minds of the little ones in that hour, not principles of morality, but principles of Churchism. (A member: "Quote the paper.") It was a circular used by the National Society. He could tell Mr. Isaacs that he was conscientiously and firmly of opinion that the working classes as a whole strongly objected to his resolution, and would feel exceedingly embittered towards that board if it attempted to adopt it, but especially would they feel so if it were carried. He would not permit any gentleman to say that with respect to his own class which he knew to be untrue.

After some further discussion, the CHAIRMAN (the Rev. D. J. Vaughan) remarked that the principle of paying school fees was accepted by the Act, but the question was whether they should proceed at once to act upon the principle. He did not think it was essential to settle the question now, but that it should be postponed until they could consider it in connection with the subject of compulsion. He therefore coincided with the amendment. He hoped they would proceed with their work so earnestly that before a month was out they would see their way clear to the number and kind of schools that they would provide.

Mr. BURGESS maintained that the first business of that board was to provide new schools in the town so as to give the parents of children the option of sending them to the board schools or denominational schools. He should never support any policy to pay fees, without they had full control over the funds they provided.

After some remarks from the Rev. Mr. BENNIE and Captain WORSWICK, the resolution and amendment were both withdrawn.

ECCLESIASTICAL GRANTS IN NEW YORK.

(From our Correspondent.)

It is strange to find that in the "model Republic" the State-Church principle which in England is tottering to its fall is steadily advancing, as far as this State of New York is concerned. The Roman Catholics have got in the thin end of the wedge, and they lose no opportunity of clinching it. To justify the large sums given in support of Romanism, the Legislature—or rather the leaders thereof—have from time to time sought to throw out sops to other religious bodies, but happily without success. Not long ago a bribe was accepted by the Baptists, but such a storm of feeling was thereby evoked that the act is not likely to be repeated. It is the Catholics, and the Catholics alone, who are trying to subvert the very foundations of the Commonwealth by seizing public money for sectarian purposes.

The New York State Council of Political Reform has recently issued some documents which show how insidious and yet persistent are the efforts of Catholics to appropriate State funds. The New York Political Reformers say:—

The founders of our Government read history, and they guard us effectually from religious wars by excluding any form of religion entirely from affairs of State. Our Government recognises the perfect right of everyone to have whatever religion he pleases, or none at all if he wishes, and protects him in the peaceful enjoyment of that right. Beyond this it cannot go. It has no power to teach the tenets of any sect, and has no right to appropriate public property or public money to any sect.

But we have a very respectable body of citizens, most of them not born in this country, but led by a highly cultivated priesthood, nearly all of whom were educated under a foreign theocratic despotism, who demand the destruction of our American system of free non-sectarian common schools and the substitution of the sectarian charity system of Italy. As an entering wedge to bring about this revolution, they demand from the public treasury money to support their Church schools, and corruption in high places has granted their request.

They admit that our public schools give an excellent secular education; but they complain that they cannot enter there and teach at public expense the peculiar doctrines and practices of their sect. Hence, and hence only, their complaint, and their coarse denunciation of our free schools, as coming from the devil.

We cannot yield one jot or one tittle of their demand, for it involves a principle to us sacred and vital. It means the union of Church and State.

It is a fundamental principle of our whole civil policy to keep Church and State entirely separate—a principle incorporated into our national Constitution, and also into every one of our State Constitutions.

It is our profound conviction that the sacred interests of religion, of conscience and of domestic peace, require this separation to be strict and perpetual.

The moment the State takes under its protection any church by appropriating public money or property to the uses or support of that church, or the teaching of its peculiar tenets or practices, it, in that act and to that extent, unites State and Church, and establishes a principle that revolutionises our whole political and religious system, and brings back upon us the spiritual tyranny that the founders of our country fled from England and France to escape. The union of Church and State, in all ages and in all countries, has led to oppression and bloodshed.

The above might have been written by Mr. Carvell Williams, so tersely does it express the principles of anti-State-Churchmen. I notice an admirable leader in the *Nonconformist* of July 26 on "Irish Affairs," which deals a fitting rebuke to Cardinal Cullen and his party, who are seeking for Catholic educational endowments. Of late years Romanism has become more intolerant everywhere. Time was when Archbishops Murray and Whately were personal friends, and both believed in the possibility of secular education. But now Cardinal Cullen and his clergy translate *secular* into *infidel*, and the policy of the Catholic priesthood is precisely the same in America as in Ireland. The State Council of Political Reform show, in the following words, how the Catholics have slowly developed their plans:—

The sect that seeks the destruction of our common schools have entrenched themselves in New York city. Their bishop, forty years ago, demanded a part of the school money. It was refused. Ten years later the demand was renewed with a like result. He then came to Albany, "fixed" the Governor and leading politicians, and went before the Legislature for a law to compel New York city to let his church into the city treasury. The Legislature, with almost entire unanimity, rejected his proposal.

Then the plan of attack on the public schools was altered. Church charitable institutions, many of which were sectarian schools in disguise, were started, and public money from city and State was obtained from year to year to support them. Finally, last year, a bill was reported in the Legislature to appropriate some 200,000 dols. of public money directly to sectarian institutions by name. The bill was rejected. Then fraud and deceit were resorted to, and section ten was secretly smuggled into the New York City-tax levy at the last moment of the session, which takes over 200,000 dols. a year out of our public treasury, and gives it to a few useless sectarian schools; useless, because the free non-sectarian public schools of the city already amply provided for all the children.

The enormity of this legislation led us to investigate, and to our astonishment we found that, aided by this statute and a city government controlled by one religious sect, *more than half a million of dollars annually of the public money of the city of New York is abstracted from the city treasury, and given to certain churches, and church and sectarian schools; thus uniting Church and State, and making the State support the Church.*

Besides this, we found that a single sect had obtained from the city government *more than three million of dollars' worth of public property, and applied it to sectarian uses.*

These startling discoveries show that a new, a foreign, a despotic, a destructive principle has crept into our legislation, State and municipal—a principle so fatally poisonous that, unless speedily uprooted, it will soon reach every town, destroy our free common schools, control legislative bodies, establish a State-Church, and bring upon us the ignorance, corruption, and alternate anarchy and despotism, with which it has cursed Italy, Spain, and Mexico.

To save our State from that we must first demand the repeal of all State laws appropriating or authorising the appropriation of public money to sectarian uses. Second, to secure the future, we must effect an amendment to the Constitution of the State so as to prohibit any such legislation by town, city, or State.

The Political Reformers are organising a movement to deal with this growing and already gigantic evil. The following are a series of resolutions which they adopted some time ago:—

Resolved, That we enter our emphatic protest against the appropriation of public money or property, by town, city, State, or national authorities, for the endowment or support of churches, convents, sectarian schools and institutions.

Resolved, That every such appropriation is in fact a union of Church and State, a violation of the sacred American principles of religious liberty, and of equality of all denominations before the civil law; principles which have been the glory of our institutions in the past, and have been illustrated in the complete separation and independence of Church and State.

Resolved, That any and every religious sect which attempts to support its churches, sectarian schools, or church charities, by the public money raised by general taxation, or by public property, is, by that act, uniting Church and State, introducing sectarian bitterness into politics, and deserves the condemnation of all good citizens.

Resolved, That every appropriation of public money to sectarian schools is an attack upon the free non-sectarian public schools of this State, which schools now—with a liberality worthy a great republic—offer, free of cost, to every child in the State a generous and tolerant education; such an education as qualifies him for the duties of citizenship.

Resolved, That section 10, chapter 876, of the laws of 1869, relating to the city of New York, which in fact, though not in name, appropriates nearly a quarter of a million of dollars annually to a few sectarian schools in this city, is unnecessary, was not called for by the people, is a violation of the American doctrine of equal toleration and protection to all religious sects, but public support to none; and, unless repealed, will at once, and for the first time, introduce sectarian rancour into American politics, and array at the ballot-box the Protestants against the Roman Catholics.

Resolved, That the Legislature be petitioned, and is hereby called upon, to repeal the said section and all similar laws, and to take yeas and nays on the vote, in order that the people may know what members are

ORIGINAL
DEFECTIVE

for the free schools, and what members are for a State-Church, and for turning education over to the bickerings of religious sects.

Resolved, That an amendment to the constitution of the State, absolutely forbidding all appropriations of public money or property to the endowment or support of religious or sectarian institutions, is imperatively demanded, and, next to direct and immediate efforts to preserve our free public schools, shall be a special object of our State organisation for political reform.

The men who are at the head of this American Liberation movement are highly respectable, energetic, and persevering; but they are confronted by an organised conspiracy of Catholics and politicians. The priests will use any instruments, however dirty, to rule the Legislative Assembly, and the governing politicians of New York know too well the value of the Irish Catholic vote to oppose tha encroachments of the Romanists. The State Council of Political Reform is doing a good work in this matter, but it is to be feared that, so long as New York submits to be ruled by such political speculators—not to say with the *New York Times* "public thieves"—as "Boss" Tweed, the building up of a Catholic State-Church will go on. No wonder that the Catholics erect magnificent cathedrals, and boast of their influence and power, when they are pocketing millions of dollars from the State Treasury. Let us hope our American cousins may awake to the gravity of the position, and put down in every form what John Bright so aptly termed "the adulterous union between Church and State." In another article I shall show how far the Protestant religious bodies have compromised themselves by accepting State-aid.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY'S NEW CAMPAIGN.—Next Monday the Executive Committee will resume its sittings after the holidays, and on Thursday, the 21st inst., the first of a series of district conferences will be held—at Bradford; Mr. Carvell Williams and the Rev. Charles Williams, of Accrington, attending as a deputation from the committee. Mr. Illingworth, M.P., is to preside, and the circular convening the conference—which is signed by a number of the Society's leading Yorkshire friends—expresses the hope that it will be of such a character as will be likely to exert a perceptible influence on the future of the disestablishment movement in the North of England. On the following evening Mr. Carvell Williams is to address the members of the Great Horton branch of the Society. We may add that the Manchester Committee has met, and has resolved to hold a similar conference about the 1st of November, and conferences are also to be held in other large towns—including the metropolis. Other movements are, we believe, being prepared for, and will, no doubt, be announced in due time.

It is stated that the Bishop of Calcutta has asked for three new bishops to be sent to his large diocese without any expense to the Government.

The Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Wesleyan clergymen in a certain town (says the *Times* Sydney correspondent) exchange pulpits once a month, and this is done by the knowledge and sanction of the Bishop of Bathurst.

In reference to the statement of the *John Bull* that legal proceedings which threatened the vicar of Hillingdon will not now take place, the *Guardian* believes that the Bishop of London had very reluctantly consented to the case going to the Arches Court; but that Sir C. Mills, the complainant, declined under present circumstances to take it there.

THE RITUALISTS.—"Confessions" are heard regularly at nine o'clock nightly at St. Albans, Holborn, London. The "confessionals," are somewhat novel--banners of violet stuff, fixed in position in the left side aisle, on one side of which is a chair for the "priest," and on the other a kneeler for his "penitent."

ABOLITION OF OATHS.—Among the Acts passed in the recent session was one to repeal numerous enactments requiring permissory oaths to be taken on appointments to various offices. The Act (34 & 35 Vict. c. 48) was rendered necessary on account of the revision of the statutes. The enactments now repealed stand from Edward III. to the 30 & 31 Victoria.

AN ENGLISH BISHOP IN A HIGHLAND PARISH CHURCH.—On Sunday last the Lord Bishop of Winchester officiated in the parish church of Glengarry, Inverness-shire, strictly following throughout the service of the Presbyterian order of worship of the Church of Scotland. He preached a most moving sermon before a numerous congregation. His Lordship is presently the guest of Mr. Ellice, M.P., Invergarry House.—*Scotsman.*

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS ON THE CONTINENT.—The Committee of the Sunday-school Union for six or seven years past have been actively engaged in promoting the establishment of Sunday-schools on the Continent, conducted upon the system which has made these institutions so popular in this country. In furtherance of this object they have just made a grant of five thousand francs to the committee co-operating with them in Paris, and now that the adverse influences of the war upon all benevolent enterprises have nearly ceased it is in contemplation to give a much wider extension to this important movement.

A RECTOR PREACHING IN A CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.—The following appeared under the Ipswich news of the *Suffolk Chronicle*:—"St. Clement's Congregational Chapel.—On Sunday afternoon the Rev. W. Haslam, rector of Buckenham, Norfolk, preached in this chapel to a large and attentive congregation. Some good people used to be thrown into incipient madness at the very idea of the mayor's mace going to chapel, but here is actually a rector preaching in a chapel to sinners. Stupendous? and yet how very much like New Testament Christianity it is, is it not!" Buckenham Ferry is a village in the diocese of Norwich.

"GOING OVER TO THE CHURCH."—The *Rock* and other Church publications have been rejoicing, somewhat prematurely it seems, on the alleged going over of "an entire congregation of Primitive Methodists" to the Church of England. The *Rock* must have queer ideas of conversion! The fact is, that the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Dropmore, in Buckinghamshire, was built on ground given by the Granvilles, the late lords of the manor, but through some default was left unsecured, and the present lord of the manor is taking steps to take away the chapel. The result will probably be to render the little congregation homeless, but hardly to make them good members of the Church of England.—*Unitarian Herald.*

PROTESTANT CONFERENCE IN GERMANY.—It has been resolved by the Evangelical Christians in Germany not to hold the usual meeting of the Kirchentag in Berlin this year as was intended originally, but to make arrangements for holding a conference more in harmony with the great results of the recent Franco-German war of 1870-71. An invitation has accordingly been issued, signed by between 200 and 300 Christians of all views and of all German countries (including some of the most advanced Lutherans, but all standing on the positive ground of faith), for a conference of Evangelical men of the German Empire to meet in Berlin from the 10th to the 12th of October next. It is anticipated that many laymen will take part in the proceedings.

ECCLESIASTICAL FEARS.—Extremely sensitive are some of the representatives of the Church of England becoming in reference to disestablishment. One of the Church organs expresses fears that the Gladstone Government will lay "unholy hands" upon the endowments of the Indian Church. Working up into a state of alarm, it imagines that "instructions may even now have been issued to the Governor-General of India by the Duke of Argyll to enter on his task." Is it ungracious and cruel to the alarmists to wish that the Duke might soon give substance and reality to their forebodings? The fact which has given rise to this alarm is the simple circumstance that the Duke, although a member of the Established Church of Scotland, is liberal enough to "at times attend the services of other denominations." It would seem that a statesman who can recognise Nonconformity in any shape is not to be trusted.—*Unitarian Herald.*

ANOTHER QUEENSFERRY CASE.—A fresh difficulty has arisen with regard to Queensferry Parish Church. At a meeting of the Presbytery of Linlithgow, on Thursday, the following objections were raised by some of the congregation to the new minister lately appointed to that fastidious parish:—1. That his pulpit services are shallow, uninteresting, and unimpressive, and his delivery heavy and monotonous, and we cannot derive benefit or spiritual edification from them. 2. That his prayers are deficient, being very much a repetition one of another; and also because they fail to give expression to what should be the desire of the heart, and have no reference to the varied wants of a congregation. 3. That his voice is harsh, and his pronunciation so different from that which we have been accustomed to hear, that we are unable frequently to understand what he says, or to follow him. 4. That if he should be inducted, the congregation, which is almost unanimously opposed to his settlement, would undoubtedly be dispersed. The Presbytery took the names of the objectors present, or for whose absence a sufficient excuse was made, and then adjourned to the 14th inst.. when they will receive additional objections should any be offered.

RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN AUSTRIA.—A correspondent at Vienna says, writing on the 1st inst.:—"A congress of Austrian schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, consisting of about 2,000 persons, is now sitting at Linz, in Upper Austria. The governor of the province opened the congress with an address, in which he said that the Government continued to be animated by a progressive spirit in educational matters, and that it would never permit any retrogression. This declaration produced a very depressing effect on the few members who belong to the clerical party. The first subject for discussion was religious education. Herr Hein, of Vienna, delivered an address, in which he argued that education in schools should be confined to the general principles of religion and morality, without touching upon dogmas or differences of creed. He concluded by proposing the following resolutions, which were adopted by the congress:—1. The teaching of religion according to creed is opposed to the fundamental principle of popular education. 2. Religious teaching should develope as simply and spiritually as possible the knowledge of the original source of existence by means of science and history. 3. The teaching of morality should proceed by example as well as by precept. 4. It being admitted that the teaching of religion and morality is irrespective of creed, the necessity for an ecclesiastical teacher of religion in national schools disappears. The other speeches and resolutions were equally liberal in tone, and the congress is regarded as an event of no small importance."

THE SALE OF CHURCH LIVINGS.—A correspondent of the *Church Times* (August 11) has taken the trouble to analyse 120 advertisements of advowsons and presentations for sale. Seventy-seven of these he has classified as offering the following advantages:—

Best of excellent society	30
Social advantages	2
Light or very light duty	8
Influential position	4
Country position	3
Desirable position	5
Beautiful neighbourhood	4
Attractive watering-place	3
Wealthy neighbourhood	6
Good fishing	2
Almost a sinecure	1
Residence not required	2
Small population	4
Fashionable congregation	1
Very few poor	1
Unusual attractions	1
	77

The remainder, we are informed, refer only to houses and grounds. The persons who draw up these advertisements are doubtless fully aware of what will attract their customers, and are too delicate, or too wise, to say anything about work to be done or souls to be saved. The less of the former, and the fewer of the latter, so much the more attractive is the "living."—*Liberator.*

FURTHER UNIVERSITY REFORMS.—Judging from recent experience, it is not improbable that in some colleges a perceptible share of the fellowships—in some cases, perhaps, the large part—may be held by Dissenters or unbelievers. Could they have a better plea for a renewed agitation? Why, it would be asked should any distinction be drawn? It is now admitted that any man, whatever his religious opinions, may be a Fellow, may lecture the students, and may take part in the government of the college. For what possible reason should he be practically put at a great disadvantage as regards a share in the emoluments? So long as the college was intended to be an organisation for propagating the opinions of a particular sect, it was fair enough to reserve special advantages for the clergy of that sect. When that pretext has been removed, it is impossible to say why the Church of England clergy should have the advantage over Dissenting ministers, or why any clergy should have an advantage over the laity. We have only to wait till a sufficient body of aggrieved persons has been accumulated, and the pressure against the existing barriers will become strong enough to justify a new agitation with all the prestige of the success of its predecessor. Behind this question, again, there may come the question of college livings. They are practically retiring pensions for men who have served their time as tutors. When they become available only for a small minority of the body, would it not be a fairer plan to dispose of the patronage, and to convert its value into some form which would render it equally available for everybody? With the help of these fragments of an extinct system, there is still the raw material for a discussion, carried on either in Parliament or in the separate colleges—for an agitation which may last for another generation.—*Fraser's Magazine for September.*

CHRISTIANITY AND COMMUNISM.—Can Christianity do anything? That is the question of questions. The Communistic reformers say no. Primitive Christianity, according to their reading, tried and failed; and as for modern Christianity, which has grown to be such a feeble travesty of the system designed by the great Founder of the Christian Church, the idea of that regenerating society is simply laughable. This subject has been discussed by some writers in the *Pall Mall Gazette.* "Delta" says that most Socialists have, in fact, taken the earliest forms of Christianity as the model of the plans for the regeneration of humanity; for the "two leading ideas which unquestionably pervaded the first preaching of Christianity were the duty of sharing all property between the adherents of the new religion, and the duty of submission to authority and even to oppressive violence." But they are hostile to Christianity as it now exists, because they cannot recognise its real principles in the Christianity revised and corrected by its disciples of all ages. "Interpres" endeavours to correct this gentleman's notions about the two leading ideas of primitive Christianity, and shows that he could never have read either the Acts of the Apostles or their Epistles with any attention. He does not, however, venture to discuss whether the teachings of Christ Himself do not "favour Socialism." Indeed, he admits this is an open question, for he closes his letter thus:—"Christianity, judged by its authentic records and not by men's fancies, no more prohibits property than it prohibits civil government, or ranks and degrees, or professions, or war, or slavery. How far it is impliedly compatible with all or any of these, has been matter of debate for eighteen hundred years, and does not bid fair to be settled yet." "A poor man, a bad Christian, and therefore most likely a good Socialist," writes very good sense under a pretence of sarcasm. Primitive Christianity and modern Socialism are, he contends, altogether out of keeping. "To Christ, kingcraft, wealth, pro-

perty were so many God-given opportunities to condescend nobly and greatly to the obligation of universal brotherhood. To Fourier property was robbery, kingcraft a blasphemous arrogance." Some of us believe that the Christianity which Christ taught contains and is the only solvent for the problems which are breaking up society. If the modern Church can neither exhibit nor apply that solvent, alas for the world, and woe to the Church! —*English Independent.*

Religious and Denominational News.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

The third of the conferences of delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom took place on Wednesday morning at the Stafford Rooms, Tichbourne-street, Edgeware-road. Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S., presided, and there were present the Hon. W. E. Dodge, of New York; Mr. J. S. Deal, of San Francisco; the Rev. Pastor Cook, and many other gentlemen of various nationalities. After some prefatory remarks from the CHAIRMAN, the Honourable W. E. DODGE said he had been greatly pleased with the meeting he had attended on the previous evening, for he believed it was an organisation calculated to do an immense amount of good. During the last week he had been round their great city by night, traversing its great avenues as well as its bye-streets, looking into the gin-palaces; and while he had watched, as he stood at the corners, and saw young men and young women going into those places, he fancied he traced in them a photograph of the miserable and degraded old men and women they would become. He had wondered what would become of London when these young men and women grew up and exerted an influence in the great city. He was the president of the National Temperance Association of America, he had seen much of these matters, and he firmly believed that the drinking customs of society were the great obstacle to the progress of evangelical religion. Unless their seniors exercised some little self-denial, thousands of the promising youth of England would be dashed to the ground and ruined. The Hon. J. S. DEAL spoke of the principles of the association on the Californian coast. The organisation in San Francisco was as complete as that of any nation in the world. Mr. TAWSE, W.S. of Edinburgh, then introduced the subject of the work of the association in Scotland, and information was given respecting Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leith, Perth, Paisley, and other places.

The conference reassembled at Aldersgate-street in the evening under the presidency of Mr. J. D. ALLCROFT, who, in opening the proceedings, remarked that when they looked at the state of the country and saw what was the condition of young men, they must desire that such work as this association proposed should be extended. The position of young men in this country was very different now from what it was in years gone by. They had more time on their hands, and that might be turned into a great blessing. They had larger means, larger incomes, and that, too, might prove a great blessing. There were greater facilities for sightseeing, more opportunities for storing their minds by travel and reading. Then, again, there was a tendency amongst all men to desire to rise in the world. All these things made it absolutely necessary that Christian influences should be more extensively brought to bear, and that he believed would be successfully carried out by means of these Young Men's Christian Associations.

Mr. G. GILBERT, vice-president of the London association, proceeded to read a paper on "The Extension of the Work of Young Men's Christian Associations—why is it to be desired, and by what means can it be most effectively promoted?" He believed this association was especially valuable because it was adapted for a class for whom no like organisation existed. In the course of the discussion which followed, Mr. TAYLOR, of Glasgow, complained that Glasgow was flooded with literature of the most disgraceful kind from London, and he hoped measures would be tried to counteract it by the establishment of a new literary magazine. Mr. CRUICKSHANK, of Belfast, recommended that deputations on a large scale should be sent to local associations, in order to explain the principles of the central body. Mr. Dixon, of Dorchester; Mr. Watt, of Aberdeen; Mr. Harris, of Brighton; and other gentlemen followed, and the matter dropped. Mr. William Morley, jun., then took the chair, and Mr. A. R. PITE, chairman of the Bloomsbury branch, read a paper on "What qualifications may be regarded as most desirable for those who are to conduct the meetings or superintend the work of Young Men's Christian Associations?"

Mr. HEATH, of London, in a laudatory speech, proposed the following resolution:—

That the delegates assembled at this conference desire to record their grateful sense of deep indebtedness to Mr. Shipton for his unwearied labours in arranging the details of its various meetings, as well as to express to him their heartfelt brotherly affection and esteem, and their earnest hope that his valuable life may long be spared for future usefulness in the interests of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Mr. JOSEPH JAMES, of Dublin, seconded the resolution, which was supported by Pastor PAUL COOK, and carried amidst tremendous cheering, all standing up. Mr. SHIPTON said he had always loved the association and every man connected with it. He then went at considerable length into the early history of the association, and described the objects which it sought to accomplish. He regretted to say that many of their associations were weak, badly organised, and spasmodic in their efforts; and that arose from their being maintained simply for the purpose of keeping up an institution, instead of being maintained to do the work of God. There were now associations in 140 towns in England, fifty-seven of which had been formed during the last three years by means of the exertions of Mr. Gilbert, and greatly through the liberality of the three gentlemen who were now sitting together—Mr. William Morley, Mr. George Williams, and Mr. Allcroft. (Cheers.) It would not be just and honest to say that all these associations were in good condition in reference to their organisations, but as far as they went they were all healthy, and he trusted that they would become true and effective missionary agencies. Thanks were given to the London committee for convening the conference, and for their generous hospitality to the delegates; to the chairmen and to the gentlemen who had read papers; and to the gentlemen who had entertained the delegates. Mr. GEORGE WILLIAMS offered prayer, and, the doxology having been sung, the conference was declared at an end.

On Thursday morning the delegates went to Trent Park, East Barnet, to spend the day, on the kind invitation of Mr. R. C. L. Bevan.

The Rev. James Jack, of Leeds, formerly of Mr. Spurgeon's college, has accepted a very cordial invitation to the pastorate of Clarence-street Chapel, Penzance.

The Rev. Robert McAll, minister of Belgrave Chapel, Leeds, has recently resigned his position, in consequence of his receiving a very cordial invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Bocking, Essex; formerly presided over by the Rev. Thomas Craig, and more recently by the Rev. G. B. Ryley, now of Hanover Chapel, Peckham. Mr. McAll's decision to leave Leeds has called forth very strong and earnest expressions of regret on the part of the church and congregation.

WALWORTH-ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL.—This chapel (the Rev. W. Howieson's), which has been thoroughly cleaned and repaired, the forecourt having also been greatly improved in appearance, was opened on Sunday week by sermons from the pastor and the Rev. Francis Tucker. Liberal collections were taken at the close.

THE CALVINISTIC METHODISTS. — The annual gathering of the North Wales Calvinistic Methodist Association is now being held at Bangor. The principal meeting was held on Thursday, when over 10,000 people assembled to hear discourses from some of the leading ministers in the connection.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL SCHEME.—Mr. Jas. S. Budgett, of Ealing, has come nobly to the help of the Wesleyan Metropolitan Chapel-Building Fund. He has supplemented Sir F. Lycett's munificent offer of 1,000*l.* each to fifty new chapels, by promising in like manner 100*l.* each. Already more than half the amount of 50,000*l.*, necessary to secure the whole of Sir Francis Lycett's gifts, has been subscribed.

WARWICK.—A handsome memorial tablet, of pure statuary marble, was last week erected in Brook-street Independent Chapel, to the memory of the late Rev. Joseph Wilcox Percy, who for fifty years was pastor of the church and congregation assembling in that place, and held in high esteem. On Sunday evening last the Rev. G. Shaw, the present pastor of the church, preached a special and appropriate sermon relating to the memorial, on Prov. x, 7—"The memory of the just is blessed."

NOTTINGHAM.—The first anniversary of the settlement of the Rev. Thomas Ryder over the church in Stoney-street, Nottingham, was celebrated at a large church tea-meeting on Tuesday evening, the 5th inst.: presided over by the pastor. A handsome purse containing fifteen sovereigns was presented to Mr. Ryder by E. Barwick, Esq., on behalf of the church. Congratulatory and stirring addresses were delivered by the Revs. T. W. Handford of Bolton, E. K. Everett of Nantwich, and Messrs. H. Hickling, H. Cooper, J. Fernyhough Jun., E. Barwick, and W. Brown.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—On Thursday an ordination service was held at Lee Chapel, Blackheath, at which Mr. Arnold Foster, B.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, was set apart as a missionary in connection with this society. The following ministers took part in the service:—The Rev. Joseph Beazley, minister of Blackheath Congregational Church; the Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., minister of Lee Chapel; the Rev. Samuel Martin, of Westminster; and the Rev. Joseph Mullens, D.D., foreign secretary to the society. At the close of the service the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. Mr. Foster will sail early in October for Hankow, China, the station to which he has been appointed.

METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE COLLEGE. — On Thursday evening the annual meeting of this college was held in the Tabernacle, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon in the chair, and delivering an address and a short sermon from Numbers x. 1—10. In his address he stated that the students who had become pastors from the College had baptized 11,261 persons, while there had been a total added to the churches of 16,450 members. He also stated that there were twenty churches in South London which owed their existence to the college. Addresses were delivered by the Rev, D. Gracey, Messrs. Tansley, Granville and others, the boys of the Orphanage being present, and singing an anthem.

ST. HELENS.—The memorial stone of the new Sunday-school in connection with the Independent Chapel, St. Helen's, was laid by Mr. James Marsh, on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 5. A large company assembled, and the Revs. W. Miller, R. Bentley, W. Axford, and R. J. Ward (minister of the chapel), took part in the proceedings. In the evening over 700 persons met for tea in the Volunteer Hall. W. W. Pilkington, Esq., J.P., presided, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. A. Macfadyen, M.A., of Manchester, S. Pearson, M.A., of Liverpool, and W. M. Taylor, M.A., of Bootle. In the course of the evening an illuminated address was presented to Mr. James Marsh by the teachers, in acknowledgment of his services as superintendent for thirty years. The new building, which is to replace the old one, will cost 3,900*l.*

HACKNEY COLLEGE. — The annual devotional service in connection with the commencement of the session was held on Wednesday evening last, September 6. There was a good attendance, the Rev. Principal McAll presiding. There were also present the Rev. Dr. Wardlaw, Professor Newth, Revs. A. A. Ramsey, F. Hastings, P. Jones, I. V. Mummery, W. Tarbotton, J. Farren, G. M. Murphy, &c., &c. After the customary devotions the Rev. J. de K. Williams, of Parish-street, Horselydown, delivered a characteristic address on the "Parish of Hackney and its Worthies," specially referring to the lives of Dr. Burder, Dr. Cox, and Dr. Pye Smith, deducing life lessons for the students from their resemblances and diversities. He also briefly alluded to the founders and friends of the college in its earlier days, giving some personal reminiscences as he proceeded, and at the close of his address he was warmly applauded. The meeting concluded in the usual way.

BELPER.—On Wednesday, the memorial stone of a new Congregational Church, now in course of erection in Belper, was laid by James Sidebottom, Esq., of Manchester, in the presence of a large number of spectators, but unfortunately the weather was most unfavourable. It will be a handsome structure in the Gothic style of architecture of the early decorated period, and as at present arranged, will seat 550 worshippers, and galleries may be added to afford accommodation for 200 more, if desired. The entire cost (including the expense of adapting a portion of the chapel taken down last year for Sunday-school purposes, &c.) is estimated at about 4,100*l.*, a considerable portion of which has already been contributed. There are still, however, a large deficit, but the committee hope to open the church without the burden of a heavy debt. The architect is Mr. G. Woodhouse, of Bolton. The present pastor is the Rev. F. Knowles, from Rotherham College.

LEWISHAM.—In the spring of the year the congregation, composed of members of various denominations, which had been gathered together at Rushey-green, Lewisham, invited the Rev. J. B. Blomfield, late of Walsall, to become their minister. About the same time the lessees of the Mission Chapel, in which they had been worshipping, determined that the building should not be used any longer by a people who had a settled minister. The congregation, therefore, were compelled to choose between a continual change of preachers or withdrawal from the place altogether. The latter course was unanimously preferred, and the Auction Room was engaged for the purposes of worship. On Thursday evening, the 7th inst., a tea and public meeting was held, at which great enthusiasm was manifested by the friends of the cause. The chair was taken by Mr. T. Atkins, and the meeting was addressed by the Revs. R. T. Verrall, B.A., E. Johnson, B.A., J. L. Pearse, T. G. Wilson, and J. W. Ellis, who expressed their high esteem for the new minister and their hearty concurrence in the work which he has undertaken.

PROPOSED ANGLICAN CHURCH AT ROME.—The Rev. Richard Burgess, D.D., appeals in the *Times* for help towards erecting a Church of England local place of worship at Rome. He writes:—"It is thought by experienced persons who know what it is to build churches abroad that this object may be the most economically and easily carried out by obtaining through purchase in a good situation some disused edifice which should furnish the site, and in a great measure the materials, for a church, a chaplain's residence, and other accommodation for religious and benevolent purposes, the whole cost of the work to be covered by 10,000*l.* The distinguishing features of the proposed new church will be that the edifice will be situated within the walls of Rome; that it will be of an ecclesiastical character in form and structure, and commodious enough to contain the congregation which the increased number of British residents and sojourners at Rome may require; that its interior arrangements, while they are free from all significancy of an ultra-Ritualistic devotion, will be such as shall admit of a decent ceremonial and to allow of all things being done unto edification and in order. The proposed new church will in no way interfere or be in rivalry with other institutions of a like kind whether outside or within the walls of the city. The ministers or chaplains will be appointed by the trustees in whom the property of the church is to be invested, and the management of its affairs will be in the hands of a Church Committee, or Council, at Rome. As soon as a sum of money, equal to that which was offered to a similar appeal twenty years ago, (3,000*l.*) can be guaranteed, an experienced and practical friend to the scheme, qualified by his knowledge of the language and the habits of the Italians, will proceed to Rome for the purpose of making the necessary inquiries, with a view to

purchase at once a property and take any further steps that may be necessary or expedient."

THE AUTUMN SESSION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The arrangements for the meetings of the Congregational Union at Swansea next month are nearly complete, and there is reason to expect that they will be as important and interesting as any that the Union has held. The Congregationalists of South Wales will take care that the visitors shall receive a hospitable welcome; they are making all possible preparation for the gathering; and they guarantee crowded and enthusiastic audiences, ready to respond with voice and soul to every wise and inspiring word that may be addressed to them. The Union Committee, on its part, has provided a programme which must satisfy the most *exigéant* member of the denomination. The preacher to the Union will be the Rev. R. W. Dale. The address of the Rev. Thomas Jones, the chairman, is certain to excite the highest interest, and the presence of Dr. Pressensé will attract to the meetings a more than common share of public attention. The Free Protestant Churches of England and France ought certainly to have something to say to each other at this critical moment in political and ecclesiastical history which should be worth the regard of the leaders of thought in Church and State all over the Continent. The Rev. David Thomas, of Bristol, has consented to read a paper on the supply of candidates for the ministry; and in the sectional meetings Dr. Henry Allon will discourse on our colleges, and the propriety of converting them into divinity schools; the Rev. A. Mackennal on religious teaching by class and conference as well as by the public discourse; and the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown on doctrinal provisions in trust-deeds. There four papers raise questions on which the future of Congregationalism in this country hinges; not merely the influence but the very existence of our churches depend upon their right solution. It is high time they were faced, and we are thankful that no spirit of timidity has prevailed to evade or postpone the discussion of those vital subjects. A whole morning will be devoted to consideration of the Revised Constitution—not too much time for the passing of a Reform Bill, but the scheme has been so thoroughly considered by a variety of committees with the help of suggestions from so many quarters that we imagine there will not be much occasion or room for debate. On the concluding morning papers on practical subjects will be read by Mr. W. H. Conyers, of Leeds, the Rev. E. Hartland, of Bristol, and the Rev. S. Hebditch, of Bristol. The evenings will be occupied with conferences and public meetings, in which the whole field of missions will be surveyed, and the demands upon the Church created by the gradual change of the vernacular in Wales will be considered. If we add that opportunity will no doubt be found for making an emphatic record of the opinions of the Welsh Nonconformists and the Congregationalists of England on such matters of public moment as the relations of Government to education in Ireland and to the Romish clergy, we have surely said enough to induce our readers to look forward with no common interest to the autumn session.—*English Independent.*

THE REV. R. W. DALE AND HIS CONGREGATION.—At the close of his sermon on Sunday morning week, at Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham, the Rev. R. W. Dale said:—"He was not insensible to the gravity of those ecclesiastical conflicts on which we had entered, and in which he could engage with far more effect in Birmingham than he could in London. He had the profoundest interest as a Christian man, as well as an Englishman, in the solution of those political problems which would occupy the thought of the nation during the next quarter of a century, and which would be debated and discussed with special earnestness in that town. He was habitually oppressed and haunted by the evils and miseries incident to their present social condition. Whilst he was here in the very heart of the social, political, and ecclesiastical conflicts which agitated the country, it would be a dereliction of duty on his part to leave those questions untouched, or to shrink from rendering what service he could towards securing the triumph of those principles of religious justice which alone could constitute the stability and strength of the State. And yet, partly perhaps under the influence of physical weariness, resulting from the excessive labours of the last two or three years, partly under the influence of a personal liking for a quiet and retired life, and, most of all, under the influence of a strong desire to try the experiment under favourable conditions, whether it was possible for the idea of the church to be fulfilled in these days of agitation and doubt, the invitation which came to him five weeks ago from Clapton Park had strong attractions for him. He knew what he should sacrifice by going. The glorious freedom which he had had for so many years in that pulpit, to say everything that he cared to say, and to say it in what way he thought best, and for which he might have had some temporary struggle, perhaps, if he had gone among strangers; the warm affection and loyalty and confidence which they had always shown to him, and which he could not hope to gain for many years elsewhere; the strong personal ties which bound him to many of them; the recollection of their troubles, which had been his troubles, and their joys, which had been his joys; the days of their courtship, their wedding morning; their griefs for the children they had lost; the deeper grief of some of them for children who were living still; their early business struggles; the commercial success of some of them, the troubles and misfortunes of others; the days when some of them began to long for the forgiveness of sin and the reception of eternal life; their reception into the church; the growth of their religious strength and joy—why, all these things had been part of his life as well as theirs; and to have left them would have been to break with his own history, and to suffer an unmeasured loss of moral wealth and strength. And yet he looked, and looked, and looked again most longingly at the peace and quiet he thought he might have in London, and which he could never have in Birmingham, and it seemed for the time as though the opportunity had come at last for writing some books he should like to write before he died; and, above all, for trying this great experiment as to whether a living church might be built up of a nobler type than these last days had seen; and so for a time he hesitated. The energy and vehemence of their affection determined the question for him; he could hardly say he decided it for himself—it was taken clean off his hands. He was carried off his feet. For all their affection, for all their loyalty, he thanked them from his very heart."

Correspondence.

PATIENCE AND SCEPTICISM.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In this week's *Nonconformist*, in reply to "A Layman" speaking on behalf of himself and others who are earnestly striving to benefit the young men of the town where he resides, "who are getting infected with new theories," &c., you advise such to impress young men with the importance of patience in the formation of opinion. Will you allow me to refer "A Layman," and those who may work with him, to my "Kind Words to all Classes"? "Half-hours with Sceptics" was intended to cultivate the patience you commend as a "scientific and Christian virtue." It is because of their adaptation to this, amongst other ends, that a number of gentlemen are now attempting a distribution of 2,000 monthly through the agency of town and other missions. Trusting you will pardon this reference to a matter so purely personal,

I am, my dear Sir, yours truly,
ROBERT HOLMES.

Rawdon, near Leeds, Sept. 8, 1871.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent of last week complains of there being no answer to Mr. Darwin's "Descent of Man." I have recently met with a very able and complete one, entitled "Darwinism Refuted," by Sidney Herbert Laing, published by Elliot Stock.

As it is in a cheap form, and written in an attractive style, it is suitable for distribution in the manner your correspondent refers to.

Yours, &c.,
CHARLES GARVICE.

Thames Ditton, Sept. 6.

LAY PREACHING.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me space in your columns for a few lines on the above-named subject? It is a subject that for a long time has been occupying the minds of some of the most earnest practical thinkers in all Evangelical bodies. Christians generally acknowledge the fact, that a great power for good has been suffered to lie dormant in the very midst of our churches. We have hitherto largely failed in reaching the masses of our population; and one great reason of this failure has been the almost universal idea that it is the work of ordained ministers *alone* to preach the Gospel to the people. If we go to the Acts of the Apostles, we find that the most gifted men ("*laymen*") that the Church contained were called to be preachers. We plead that this may be done now. Generally speaking, men whose minds have been quickened by education and active thought, will be most capable for this work. There have been, of course, men of but little polish who have been powerful preachers, but they have been men of much rough genius, which has more than made up for defects of culture. We have heard much the last few years, of preaching sweeps, converted soldiers, and prize-fighters, and reformed burglars; of this we have had more than enough. It is no honour to the Church to be represented by such men *as such*. We fear that more harm than good is done by advertising these men in these terms.

What we rather want is that Christian men of culture and of some social standing, should take up the work. We know that there is a large number of men, fully competent, who are willing and ready to devote time and talent in the work. It is only occasional services that is required, and in a variety of places; so that no great amount of time or energy need be employed. We urge in particular that the right men should undertake the work, and that *they* should be well organised in one powerful phalanx that shall go forth sweeping away a vast amount of the sin and misery abounding in our midst. We should like to see this agency worked in ways best adapted to the several localities—town or country. In villages and suburban districts where there are small chapels, instead of seeking prematurely a settled pastor, let laymen exercise their ministry. We can even believe that it would be desirable to have now and then, a gifted layman in our larger pulpits, for have we not found professors at the joiner's bench, doctors at the shop-board, and learned men—taught of God—behind the last; before whose wisdom, of which they themselves were unconscious, the wisdom of many, which figures in books, would be put to the blush, and who possessed the gift of exposition in a degree which may be sought for in vain in many a learned compendium and commentary? How pleasing it would be to see our professed religious teachers and prophets, occasionally throwing their mantles over such people, and let them take their places! And how happy would it be for many congregations, if others, beside their own appointed shepherds, were permitted to address them! There may be little difficulties in the way of carrying out these ideas, but in view of so important an object the difficulties will be as nothing. Let a lay agency be but once fairly established, and Christian brethren in large centres of population in the provinces will catch the idea and work it out for themselves.

I am, yours very faithfully,
GEO. NORRIS WILLOMATH.

36, Bedford-terrace, Old Ford-road, E.

ABSTAINING MINISTERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As the editor of "Graham's Temperance Guide," I am anxious that the list of abstaining ministers in the volume for 1872 should be as complete and accurate as possible. Permit me, through your columns, to invite your ministerial readers who are total abstainers to send me information, by an early post, of their names, residence, denomination, and period of abstinence from strong drink.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,
DAWSON BURNS.

Sidney Villa, King Henry's-road, N.W.,
Sept. 11, 1871.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen's health is steadily improving, and during the last few days Her Majesty has been able to take several drives. The other day Professor Lister opened a small abcess in the Queen's arm, which seems to have had a beneficial effect.

The Queen is expected to remain at Balmoral till the early part of November, and then return to Windsor Castle.

The Prince and Princess of Hesse are now in London, at Buckingham Palace, and have been visiting the International Exhibition.

The Prince of Wales arrived from the continent on Friday, and is now commanding a cavalry brigade in the Hampshire manœuvres.

The ex-Empress Eugénie has embarked at Southampton for Lisbon *en route* to Madrid, to visit her mother. The ex-Emperor and the Prince Imperial, who accompanied Her Majesty to Southampton, were on their way to Torquay, where they will spend a few weeks.

Mr. Bruce, Home Secretary, has been spending a few days in the city of Worcester. The Right Hon. Robert Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is on a visit to his sisters at Stone House, Graham-road, West Malvern, Worcestershire.

The proposed conference at Birmingham on the reform of the House of Lords is to be held on the 28th of November. Invitations to attend it are to be sent to every Parliamentary borough in the kingdom.

IRELAND.

It seems that all the other candidates for the vacant seat for Limerick city have been withdrawn, and that Mr. Isaac Butt, Q.C., is likely to be returned unopposed. His address is of rather unusual length, and enters fully into the question of native Parliaments in College-green. No mention whatever is made of his promise given at the meeting held at the Theatre on Monday evening to agitate for separate education. He also abstains from saying anything on the subject of the Roman Catholic College, which in one of his speeches he vouched should have his advocacy. He concludes by saying:—"Very few elections more will pass before the man who is now a candidate for your representation will ask your votes to send him to the old House at home." In a recent speech to the electors, Mr. Butt said:—"The nation that was not ready to sacrifice its life was not worthy of its freedom, and whenever the day came that England forced them—and he was not the man for insurrection, nor one of those who adopted the creed of petition when insurrection was justifiable, and when a man had only one course left to him—then he would go home and take counsel with his conscience and his God, and do what was right at the risk of his life."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says:—"Things are beginning to look very bad, nay, even alarming, more especially in the province of Munster. We hear of weekly Fenian meetings unchecked; demonstrations openly and avowedly seditious and disloyal; and no attempt made to suppress them; the seditious press becomes daily more bold and more disloyal."

One important result has come to pass out of the recent rows. The *Dublin Evening Mail* and one or two of the Orange papers had been coquetting with

Nationalism, and trying to fuse Orange and Green, to the great satisfaction of the Nationalist papers. Now, however, they have completely turned round, and have incurred the wrath of their *quondam* allies by roundly abusing them, and, worst offence of all, sneering at the reception given to the French deputation. Once more, therefore, Orangemen and Fenians are at daggers drawn.

The "National" papers of Saturday are chiefly occupied with descriptions of, and comments upon, the amnesty meeting of last Sunday and the riot which followed it. They do not seek to underestimate the extent of the rioting. While, however, the *Irishman* and the *Flag of Ireland* endeavour to justify the conduct of the mob, the *Nation* and the *Weekly News*, although doing all they can to palliate it, on the whole condemn it.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

General Manteuffel arrived at Versailles on Saturday in order to apprise M. Thiers of the immediate evacuation of the four departments of the Seine, Seine-et-Oise, Seine-et-Marne, and Oise. The Prussian garrisons of the northern forts of Paris will be the first evacuating troops; the others will follow at the rate of 3,000 daily. Fort Charenton will be the first delivered up to the French. The evacuation of the four departments adjoining Paris by the German troops will be completed on Wednesday next, and it is asserted that negotiations have already commenced for accelerating the evacuation of the other occupied departments. General Manteuffel on Sunday evening dined with the President of the Republic. Numerous Deputies were present, among others General Chanzy and Ducrot.

The debate in the National Assembly on M. Ravinel's bill for transferring the Ministries from Paris to Versailles was resumed on Thursday. The bill was strongly opposed by M. Louis Blanc and M. Leon Say, but, notwithstanding, the general debate was closed. There is a rumour that the Government will accept an amendment to leave the question in abeyance.

M. Pouyer-Quertier, at the close of Saturday's sitting of the National Assembly, brought in a bill for a temporary levy of 10 per cent. of all the proposed direct and indirect taxes in order to provide for the contingency of the new tax laws not being voted before the prorogation of the Assembly. The Bill met with strong opposition. Disagreement is said still to prevail between the Minister of Finance and the Budget Commission.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* says M. Pouyer-Quertier has stated that he will require 120 millions sterling during the financial year to meet the expenditure of France, apart from the loan, or nearly double the expenditure of England.

At Monday's sitting of the committee on the prorogation of the Assembly, M. Thiers proposed that the holidays should be from the 7th of September till the 1st of November. On condition that this proposal was accepted the Government would consent to postpone the discussion of the Financial Bills until after the recess.

A committee of twenty-five members will be appointed to assist M. Thiers during the recess.

The Municipal Council of Versailles has waited upon M. Thiers to congratulate him upon his elevation to the Presidency of the Republic. M. Thiers, in thanking the members of the Council, said:—

No ambitious thoughts, but the deepest devotion to my country, induced me to continue the difficult task undertaken in February last. I hope the future will be more favourable to us, and I have reason to think that the moral evil from which we have suffered will be cured simultaneously with the material ills by which we are afflicted. Thus only will our country be able to resume the rank which belongs to it, and develope its forces under its present form of Government – a new form which has given rise to so many doubts, but which will become, I hope, a peaceful and glorious reality.

The Prefects of the Departments have received instructions to prohibit the keepers of public-houses in country towns from receiving signatures to petitions for the dissolution of the National Assembly, on pain of having their establishments closed. The Prefects are also ordered to annul any resolution or address adopted by municipal councils with that object.

Three of the women charged with complicity in acts of incendiarism, have been sentenced to death; others to imprisonment. Great astonishment is expressed at the severe sentences passed on the wretched, ignorant women, falsely called *Pétroleuses*. They will probably be commuted.

Colonel Rossel was tried on Friday by the third court-martial, reconstituted in consequence of his rank of captain in the regular army. He said he had no other reason for joining the Commune than the hope that the insurrection would lead to a renewal of the war with Prussia. No witnesses were called for the prosecution, but General Clinchant, and a long line of superior officers in uniform, deposed that Rossel was an excellent officer, active, energetic, laborious, and of extraordinary intelligence. Many confirmed his system of defence—namely, his thorough belief that the continuance of war would be the salvation of France. Rossel, upon being asked what he wished to add to his defence, said:—"I was born in the army, and passed my life in it. I felt a bitter pang when I left it, and the most painful part of my present position is to be tried by military men." The court retired at six p.m., and returned from their deliberation at 6.45 p.m., when they gave sentence of death and military degradation. The scene was very affecting. The relatives, and indeed everyone else, were grieved; but the sentence was known to be inevitable. Not a whisper was heard for a few minutes, though there were thousands in the court. The court unanimously found Rossel guilty on all the counts, and sentenced him to death. M. Joly at once objected to the legality of the verdict on the ground that the court had propounded a subsidiary question without previous notice. The rumour ran in court that there was a good case for an appeal.

The court-martial has sentenced Cavalière, otherwise known as Pipe-en-Bois, to transportation and detention in a fortress.

It is believed that Lullier will not be executed, and that a committee will be appointed to examine and report upon his mental condition.

The arrest is announced of citizen Lebeau, ex-editor-in-chief of the *Officiel* of the Commune. He was seized about two months since, but managed to make his escape to Melun (Seine-et-Marne), where he has remained tranquilly ever since, until he betrayed himself over the bottle at a *restaurant*.

A conspiracy, with the object of burning the arsenal and liberating the convicts, has been discovered. Highly inflammable substances were found hidden under sawdust. The facts were revealed by less ill-disposed convicts. The naval authorities are instituting rigorous inquiries.

It is denied in Paris that the affair of the convents at Rome has assumed the character of importance given to it in the Italian journals. The simple fact is that the Municipality of Rome having expressed a wish to inquire into the state of the French convents, the Duc d'Harcourt requested that any examination might be postponed until an amicable diplomatic arrangement had been arrived at between the two Governments, which are on perfectly good terms. The Italian Minister dined on Sunday with M. Thiers, together with all the Foreign Ministers.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

On his return from Gastein the Emperor William was met at Salzburg by the Emperor Francis Joseph, and they spent part of two days together. Prince Bismark and Count Beust were also there. According to the *Cross Gazette* (Berlin) the Salzburg conference renewed with greater emphasis the understanding come to at Gastein. The writer sums up the result in these words:—"Austria and Germany, first repudiating any thought of aggression on their part, will, by a close and intimate connection, decisively oppose any aggression from others."

The correspondent of the *Daily News* thus indicates the probable objects of the negotiations:—

As to the points that have been settled between Germany and Austria, it is asserted that Bismark has been able to submit to the Austrian Chancellor the assent previously given by the Foreign Office of St. Petersburg to the propositions made by the German Chancellor. The first point had reference to the future of Roumania. The two Empires agreed in considering the suzerainty of the Sultan over that country as implying the obligation for other States to appeal in cases of grievances directly to Constantinople, but also to hold Turkey responsible for what Roumania does. Germany has already acted on this principle. A letter of the Roumanian Government to that of Germany, which had been handed over to the German Consul-General at Bucharest, and which had reference to the railway question, has been received by the latter under due reservation, and from Berlin it was at once forwarded to Constantinople, as the place where it must be approved before it can be answered.

An understanding of still greater importance is said to have been come to with regard to the relations between Italy and the Pope. It has been agreed upon jointly to consider the King of Italy as the rightful Sovereign over the whole extent of the Papal dominions, by the will of the Italian people, provided that the Italian Government agree not merely to leave the liberty of action of the Holy See now and for ever untouched, but also to return all purely Church property to the Pope. This was at once communicated to the Italian Government, and it is expected that Italy will hasten to enter into negotiations about details. Indeed, the early arrival of a special Italian negotiator is confidently anticipated here at Berlin, while the negotiations yet are pending concerning an extradition treaty between Italy and Germany. Of this extradition treaty, the main provisions, by the way, have already been made public. It does not, of course, apply to political crimes, and resembles in its general features similar treaties already existing in Continental States.

The third point, which is said to have taxed the brains of Bismark and Beust sitting in council, is a most extraordinary one for a conference of diplomatists; one which almost reminds you of the Carlsbad resolutions of 1821 of evil memory. It is nothing less than the social question, and the International Society. The international danger is henceforward to be met by international action, but at the same time the social question is to be solved. Let us hope that international peace and international free trade form the main part of the intended solution.

According to a Berlin telegram, the Porte, in a note addressed to Bucharest, blames the Roumanian Government for attempting to hold direct diplomatic intercourse with Germany, and urges the expediency of settling the railway bond affair, which, were it to degenerate into a political question, might result in serious consequences to the Danubian Principalities. The French Government is believed at Berlin to be encouraging the Roumanians to refuse the German demands.

SPAIN.

King Amadeus met with a most enthusiastic reception during his stay at Valencia, where he appeared in the streets on horseback unattended among the crowd. He left that city on Friday, the whole population flocking to the station and cheering him. Innumerable flowers were strewn in his path. His Majesty has distributed since leaving Madrid 4,000*l.* to various charities. The royal train reached Tarragona in the evening, where he remained three days. The King visited the public edifices and institutions, and laid the first stone of some harbour improvements. There were great rejoicings and popular festivities. While here the King, owing to the heat and to over-exertion, was slightly indisposed, but he soon recovered, and left for Barcelona yesterday.

The new Spanish loan has been more than seven times covered. The total applications were for forty-two millions, and six millions only were required. Spain offered to subscribe for eight millions, England eleven millions, France seventeen millions, Amsterdam four millions, and Portugal one and a quarter million. The King and the Ministers are said to be highly gratified at this proof of confidence.

It is said the Spanish Ministers are desirous of throwing the expense of maintaining the clergy entirely upon the municipalities, and at the same time of releasing the State of its present charges for the salary of the Papal Nuncio and other like objects.

CHINA.

The mail from China brings us two items of news of considerable importance as bearing on the relations of foreign Governments with that country. One is the degradation of General Chen Kwo-jui, who figured so prominently at and before the massacre at Tientsin. It will be remembered that the evidence of complicity in this massacre was so strong against this man that the French Minister considered himself justified in demanding that he should be put on his trial. This the Government refused, probably feeling that they were not sufficiently strong to take such a decided step in the face of the powerful anti-foreign party, but to rid themselves of him they shuffled him off to his post at Yanchow. Here it appears that he got into hot water with the Viceroy of the Province, on what account is not clearly shown, but the probability is that the Government, regarding him as a constant source of danger to themselves, and fearing to grapple with him openly, employed the system of intrigue common to Eastern statesmen to effect his ruin. But, however this may be, the result is that a short time since he was arrested at his post, and has now, on the recommendation of the Viceroy, been reduced to the rank of a major. The other is the death of the Emperor's tutor and Grand Secretary of the Imperial Library, Wô by name. From first to last Wô has been the constant opponent of everything foreign, and the positions of confidence he has occupied about the person of the reigning Emperor and his predecessors have enabled him to urge his views with effect. During the youth of the late Emperor he held the same post as that he lately filled at the court of his son, and when his pupil arrived at years of discretion he retired to the governorship of Moukden. From this post, on the accession of the present boy-Emperor, he was recalled to resume the duties of senior preceptor. As years advanced, his hatred of Europeans seems to have increased and intensified, until his later memorials to the throne on the subject of foreign relations appear more like the ravings of a monomaniac than the advice of a statesman. In one, speaking of foreigners, he described himself metaphorically, "as continually wishing 'to eat their flesh and sleep on their skin,' and thus to satisfy his long-founded hatred." In another, in which he attempts to counteract the more reasonable policy of the Pekin Government, he says, "The Yamen (*i.e.*, the members of the Foreign Office) remark that the amicable relations with foreigners are now of some standing. How is it they do not reflect that the vengeance of his late Majesty still remains unwreaked, and the hatred of the common people still unfulfilled? Until this be accomplished, where is the propriety of the word 'relations,' or how can we employ the expression 'amicable'? Such marked and intentional introduction of the words 'amicable relations' is all very well when face to face with the barbarian; but where is the object of acknowledging it among ourselves?" We now learn that at the age of eighty this impracticable veteran has been gathered to his fathers, in spite of the repeated presents of ginseng sent him by the Emperor. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good, and in the degradation of General Chen and the death of Wô foreign Governments may find cause to congratulate themselves.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is stated that the Emperor and Empress of Brazil will shortly visit Rome.

A Yokohama correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette* states that the last census of Japan gives the number of inhabitants at 34,785,321.

A telegram from Constantinople announces the death of Aali Pasha, the Grand Vizier of Turkey, on Wednesday.

Recent news from Caprera states that Garibaldi has now entirely recovered from his late attack of illness. He takes his usual walks, and moreover is now able to ride without inconvenience.

In a fortnight spent among the Dutch (writes a correspondent of the *Times*) I have not seen one beggar or blind man or idiot, or shoeless or drunk person.

A new Armenian paper has just appeared, called the *Ararat*, which is to be the organ of the pro-

gressive "Young Armenia" party in Constantinople.

At St. Petersburg a turret-ship of circular shape is being constructed for the Black Sea navy. It will carry two monster guns, and be propelled by six screws, each of which is set in motion by an engine of its own. When ready, the ship will be taken to pieces and sent to Nicolaieff by rail.

KOSSUTH is living at Turin, almost a recluse, with his sons, Francis and Louis, and his devoted fellow-refugee, Colonel Ihasz, as companions. Though he has been elected to every Hungarian Diet since the coronation, he holds himself entirely aloof from politics, and gives his attention wholly to the study of the Natural Sciences.

THE CHOLERA IN PRUSSIA.—A Stettin telegram says:—"Neither here nor at Dantsic have any fresh cases of cholera been reported. At Königsberg on the 7th inst. thirty-two persons were taken ill, of whom twenty died; and at Elbing, on the 6th, four cases and two deaths occurred. The *St. Petersburg Moniteur* declares that cholera had not abated in Russia last week. At Kieff there are 150 deaths daily."

THE TAMMANY FRAUDS AT NEW YORK.—We learn from New York that Judge Barnard has granted a preliminary injunction, forbidding the controller of the city to issue bonds or pay claims. The case involves the validity of about twelve millions bonds already issued, alleged in violation of the law. The telegram says there is great excitement; and no wonder, for the Tammany frauds have been a national scandal.

CAPE POLITICS.—The Legislative Council has rejected, by 12 votes to 9, the bill for introducing responsible government. A bill to annex Basutoland had passed the Legislative Council. Both Houses of Parliament had passed resolutions in favour of annexing the diamond-fields, but the Governor declined to initiate any legislative action in the matter for the present. The Governor had transmitted a minute on railways to the Assembly, recommending the purchase of the Wellington line and the commencement of other works.

ABYSSINIA.—Colonel Kirkham, who commands the disciplined forces of Prince Kassa, of Tigré, writes on the 12th of July:—"At last the fight is over between Gobazie and Prince Kassa. We fought on the 9th of this month and took Gobazie a prisoner and all his army, and now Prince Kassa will be Emperor of Abyssinia. I write now on my knees, but will send all details when we arrive in Adwá. Let the Foreign Office know of it, and what has happened. Gobazie is now a prisoner in the hands of Prince Kassa, and all his army is beaten."

RENFORTH, THE CHAMPION OARSMAN.—The inquest on the body of James Renforth was brought to a close at St. John, New Brunswick, on Thursday. After hearing the evidence of the medical gentlemen who had made a *post-mortem* examination of the body, the jury delivered a somewhat guarded verdict, to the effect that the deceased died from congestion of the lungs, "which may have been caused by over-exertion in rowing in the International boat-race." The analytical chemist engaged in the case stated that he had not found poison in the contents of the stomach. The funeral of Renforth, whose body had meanwhile been brought over, took place at Gateshead on Sunday, and was attended, it is computed, by not less than 70,000 people.

ROME AND THE POPE.—The Paris papers publish letters from Rome in which it is mentioned that the Pope has congratulated M. Thiers on his elevation to the Presidency of the Republic. A Paris telegram says that the Pope received recently some members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, with whom he conversed at great length on the causes of the misery of the poorer classes in Rome. He expressed regret that Catholic landlords, equally with others, took advantage of the transfer of the Italian capital to Rome to double their rents, and he mentioned that he himself owned a house in the Faubourg Trastevere, for which, though he had had many applications, he had declined to raise the rent, in order that all might see that the Pope always acted like an honest man. Some anxiety is felt by the Italian Government as to possible disturbances at Rome. It is stated that a strict watch is being kept over the Alfieri Society, on account of threats having been made to burn the Vatican. The despatch that brings this news adds:—"It is said that all the foreign ambassadors have declared that, in case of anarchy arising in Rome, they will hoist their flags over the Pope's residence. It is said that the Jesuits have arranged to leave Rome on the opening of the Italian Parliament, and that Prince Torlonia will buy their property to prevent confiscation."

GREAT FIND OF DIAMONDS AT THE CAPE.—The news from the diamond fields continued highly satisfactory. The finds were enormous. In the search carried on in the King William's Town district for diamonds and precious stones several topazes and a good many agates had been turned out, especially in the vicinity of Mount Coke. A diamond of 120 carats had been unearthed at Du Toit's Pan. A letter from Du Toit's Pan, dated the 15th of July, contains the following interesting particulars:—"The weather has been cold. Ice an inch thick, and the ground covered with a white frost in the morning. Raymond and Co. have started their engine and shifting-machine just at the back of our tent. The engine is a success, but the shifting-machine is susceptible of improvement. The steam-engine created an immense sensation among the Dutch, most of whom had never heard a steam-whistle before. They crowded round so that very little work could be done. The next day the party found a one-carat diamond. There are 20,000 people at this farm, De Beer's and Bultfontein, and although you see little mention of the finds in the gapers they are immense. I see diamonds from 20 to 60 carats every day. At De Beer's, Rawstorne, of Colesberg, and half a dozen others purchased a claim of 110*l.*, and in four weeks took out 63 diamonds, including some of 17, 16, 8, 6, 4, and 5 carats. Quite a town is built round the public or market square. Bowling alleys, billiard saloons, hotels, restaurants, and stores without end."

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT THE GAMING TABLE.—The correspondent of the *Daily News* thus describes the appearance of His Royal Highness in the Gambling Hall, Homburg:—"The room in the Kursaal which the Prince of Wales especially favours is called the 'Gold Room.' It is usually found to be large enough to hold with comfort alike the gamesters and the spectators; but the exuberance of British loyalty proved too much for the accommodation afforded, and the spacious room was soon crowded to suffocation. I counted six rows of eager spectators assembled round the table, intently, and I suppose pleasantly, engaged in watching the face and fortunes of England's hope and pride. This is one of the penalties of greatness. Another penalty had to be endured by the royal gamester. He had to submit to the loss of his money like the meanest of mankind who stakes his coin on the colour of a card or the roll of a ball. The enthusiastic sycophants who would have made any other sacrifice to propitate the prince, refused to show their attachment by following his lead at rouge et noir. They put their stakes on red or black without the slightest reference to what he thought would win next time. In presence of the Fallen Angel, who is supposed to preside unseen at these tables, there is no distinction between the player, prince and peasant being equally sure to lose his money, if he but continue to play long enough. Whether the Prince of Wales had a temporary success, or whether he lost what he brought with him, could not be ascertained from inspection of the game. He did not play for high stakes, consequently his losses could hardly be serious."

THE FAVRE LIBEL CASE.—A painful trial has just taken place here, M. Jules Favre having considered it his duty to defend his character as Minister. A short time before the reign of the Commune, Citizen Millière exposed in the columns of the *Vengeur* M. Jules Favre's private life, accusing him of forgery and of having misappropriated money. Of these articles the Foreign Minister took no notice. After the entry of the Versailles troops, however, M. Laluyé, who had formerly been the bosom friend of M. Jules Favre, but had quarrelled with him and had furnished Citizen Millière with documents and information, was arrested. M. Laluyé wrote a letter, in which he declared that M. Jules Favre had had him arrested, and accused the Minister of the crimes above mentioned, and of having had his desks forced and his family papers rummaged. Attacked in this way, M. Jules Favre brought an action of defamation against M. Laluyé and the *Avenir Libéral* and the *Vérité*, which papers published the libel. M. Jules Favre was placed in the most painful position, and made a full confession before the jury. He told those gentlemen how when a young man he had met with Mdme. Vernier, a lady who was separated from her husband, and had lived with her in retirement for twenty years, and he explained to the court how it came that he had registered his children as the lawful offspring of Monsieur and Mdme. Jules Favre instead of as children of the Verniers. He also explained the money transaction by showing that his friend Odiot, whom he had nursed in his last moments, could never have meant to leave a part of his fortune to Vernier's and not to M. Jules Favre's children. There is no doubt about M. Jules Favre having transgressed the law in both instances. M. Jules Favre denied that he had anything to do with the arrest of M. Laluyé, who had been thrown into prison on suspicion of being a Communist, and the prefect of police confirmed this statement. M. Jules Favre was greatly affected when he made his confession in court. M. Laluyé was fined 1,000f., and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. The incriminated editors were condemned to a month's imprisonment and 500f. fine. According to the Versailles correspondent of the *Daily News*, it is reported that M. Jules Favre will retire from the Assembly, the Bar, and the Academy. From other sources we find it stated that M. Gambetta is about to resume practice at the Bar.

A WISE DECISION.—The *Swiss Times* reports that a native of Fribourg presented himself a few days ago at the window of the post-office of Lausanne, and asked for an order for 100fr. The clerk put the following usual questions to him:—"Who is the sender?" "Jacques Mathieu." "What is the name of the payee?" "Jacques Mathieu, poste-restante at Estavayer." "Is he your brother?" "No, it is myself." "Do you mean to say that you are sending a post-office order to yourself at Estavayer?" "Yes, I am going there." "But why can't you take it yourself?" "Ah! there it is," said the simple fellow, "you see, I know myself, and if I were to take the money with me, the probability is that it would never reach Estavayer, while, by sending it through the post-office, I shall be sure to find it on my arrival, where I shall require it."

MR. GOSCHEN ON THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Goschen, the First Lord of the Admiralty, was present at the Sheffield Cutlers' Feast on Thursday night, and replied to the toast, "Her Majesty's Ministers." The Government, he said, had lately been exposed to a considerable amount of wigging, but for all that he was not afraid of returning thanks in an assembly of Englishmen for the toast of Her Majesty's Ministers. The public knew that any Ministry of the present day, whether Conservative or Liberal, had functions to discharge beyond those of simply keeping their party together. They had duties to perform in which every Englishman took an interest, and in their anxieties they had the sympathy of the bulk of their countrymen. Mr. Goschen then proceeded to point out that the popularity of the moment was not always the test of the strength or of the strong purpose of a Government, and argued that at the present day people seemed to expect more work and interference on the part of the Government than they did six or seven years ago, and it was expected that they should be able to carry most important measures at once, notwithstanding the many difficulties that beset them. The Conservatives had taxed the Government with an attempt to do too much. For his own part, he would rather be charged with that than with attempting to do too little. Increasing difficulties, he said, now beset Governments in this country, whether Tory or Liberal. The class of questions with which the Government now had to deal was very different from that of former times. The old political questions were being dealt with one by one, and their number was gradually decreasing. On the other hand, they now had new classes of questions in which the lines of popular opinion were not so thoroughly mapped and determined as they were on the old class of questions. A considerable amount of difficulty was thus occasioned, and the number of public questions was increased. Moreover, most of the old questions went through many phases in the House of Commons and in the opinion of the public; but in dealing with the social questions with which the Government were now brought face to face, a great number of powerful private interests were standing in the way. It was a fact that people expected more from the present Government than they did from Governments seven or eight years ago. They had had the misfortune to lose the immense ability and power of Mr. Bright—(loud cheers)—a loss which had been appreciated by both sides of the House. There had been disasters in the department over which he presided, which not only he, but the Government of the country, had felt. No criticism was necessary to bring home the gravity of those disasters. Government regarded them with a regret which no adverse criticism could deepen, and he felt them the more acutely because of the effect which they might produce on the public mind. It was a terrible thing to think of that the crew of the Megæra should be suffering in a distant island, and a terrible thing that another of our ships should have been lost. It was a distressing thing that the reputation of gallant officers should have been hurt by the grounding of the Agincourt, but still more terrible would it be if because of these accidents a spirit of fainthearted-ness were generated either in the public mind or in the navy. (Cheers.) It would be a pitiable thing if either the Admiralty or our admirals or captains should, because of those disasters, be less bold and become faint-hearted, or if we should adopt the policy of keeping our ships at home lest we should expose them to further disasters. (Cheers.) The fleet of England was made to be used, and not to be kept at home idle—(cheers)—and if he, as the First Lord of the Admiralty, were to propose such a fainthearted policy, he would not find admirals to support him, and the country generally would repudiate such a course. (Applause.) He believed that those disasters would not diminish the courage and energy of the navy, but that, on the contrary, they would act as a spur upon their vigilance, and prevent them shrinking from the responsibility which must always attach to the executive of so great a department. (Applause.) The Government had been also unfortunate inasmuch as they were pledged to economy, but had felt it to be an imperative duty to propose increased taxation. At the same time, it would have been pusillanimous if they had shrunk from their duty lest they should give offence in this respect. He would not admit that they had been generally unfortunate, and for this reason. A year or two ago it was generally stated that the country was going from bad to worse—was losing its commercial position—and every remedy, short of self-reliance and the industry of the people, was lost sight of. (Cheers.) The Government of to-day had had the happiness of dealing with increasing prosperity, and the privilege of resisting tendencies which would have sapped that self-reliance. They had had to administer the affairs of the country in a time of great and increasing prosperity. Trade had been reviving, the revenue had been increasing, and pauperism diminishing, and the resources of the country were being rapidly developed. (Cheers.) Well, looking at the difficulties which a Government would have to contend with under an entirely adverse state of things, he said they had fallen on days in which they had reason to rejoice that neither the Government nor the great mass of Englishmen thought that Government interference in every possible direction would conduce to our national welfare. Government felt

it better to trust to old doctrines and not to depart from those sound, economical principles which had made the country so great as it was. He wished to protest against the prevalence of that self-depreciation on the part of Englishmen which was so common in the present day. He had no feeling in common with those who took a pleasure in bearing false witness against their own country. We were actually stronger than ever before, and had still a brilliant future before us. Our foreign relations were as good as ever they had been, and the treaty recently entered into with America would strengthen our position among the great nations of the earth. (Cheers.) The Government were prepared to learn from that criticism which had been freely bestowed upon them, and were thankful that it was more their procedures than their principles which had been condemned. If they failed to secure the confidence of the country at large they would cheerfully resign their position and feel happy if in their fall they could promote some of those great questions upon which they had set their hearts, for they knew that many questions must first wreck the fortunes of a Government before they could be registered on the statute-book of the realm. But one thing they were not prepared to do. They were not prepared to recede from those principles which had characterised the party to which they belonged. (Cheers.) The country was always interested in the Government abiding by its principles and maintaining its high honour and integrity, whilst it endeavoured to the best of its ability to do its duty to the country. (Applause.)

MR. MUNDELLA AT SHEFFIELD.—On Monday afternoon Mr. Mundella, M.P., addressed his constituents in Paradise-square; the mayor presiding. About 12,000 persons were present. Mr. Mundella, who was received with cheers and hisses, reviewed the work of the past session, contending that it had not been barren, and that the failure to pass certain measures was owing to the opposition which had been raised. He warmly defended the foreign policy of the Government, stating that if we had nothing else to be thankful for it was a great matter that we had not a quarrel with a single Power in the world. As the speaker went on to defend the neutrality of the Government during the late war, signs of disapprobation became audible, and cries of "France as our ally" were heard. Mr. Mundella went on to contend that the military preparations of France had cost England one hundred millions during the last twenty years, and that if we had induced the French Emperor to withdraw his declaration of war, he would at the first opportunity have turned and struck us. (This statement was received with some marks of disapprobation.) Mr. Mundella spoke hopefully of the Washington Treaty, and expressed regret that he had felt compelled to oppose the Government in their financial policy. In reference to naval affairs, he observed that the Government were building as many ships as they could afford, and more than they could keep afloat. He strongly approved the exercise of the Royal prerogative in reference to the Army Bill, and the endeavours of the Government to pass the Ballot Bill, and condemned the retrograde policy of the Lords. He believed a second Chamber was necessary as a wholesome check, but it must not be allowed to retard useful legislation which was desired by the people. Mr. Mundella afterwards referred to the Licensing Bill and other measures, and a vote of confidence in the hon. member was passed.

THE MILITARY MANŒUVRES IN HAMPSHIRE.

By Thursday last all the troops to engage in the forthcoming manœuvres had assembled at Aldershot. The total combatant force amounts to 36,750 men, divided as follows:—Regulars, 20,550; Militia, 6,150; Yeomanry, 550; Volunteers, 3,500; 5,080 horses belonging to the combatant force will go out, and the Army Service Corps will number 1,530 men and nearly double as many horses. The above force comprises 23 battalions of line infantry averaging 630 men, and ten militia regiments averaging 615 men each. The force remaining at Aldershot will number 5,530 men and 555 horses; of these, 2,200 men will be on various duties, 830 recruits, and 2,500 casualties and sick.

The total artillery force and engineers, some 2,700 strong, with fifteen batteries containing ninety guns—a larger number than have been seen together in England for many long years—were inspected at Aldershot on Tuesday. Report speaks highly of their efficiency.

General Von Blumenthal and Count Von Alten, who are to represent Germany at the camp, have arrived. France, Russia, Austria, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and the United States are also represented. The authorities strictly adhere to the rules laid down in limitation of the weight of camp equipment and baggage allowed to each regiment and officer. The Prince of Wales, who takes the command of the Cavalry Brigade of the 2nd Division at Hartford-bridge Flats, has his three marquees, and Prince Arthur was permitted one whole bell tent, but has insisted on sharing it with a subaltern of his company. The sheepskins were withheld from cavalry, but the artillery have resumed theirs. The new order for the picketing of the cavalry directs that the horses shall be picketed by the head to a rope secured to stakes and level with the ground, also with a heel-rope fastened to a peg in such a manner that should the peg be drawn the rope will come adrift. The remainder of the hired transport arrived in camp on Thursday, completing the whole of the transport arrangements. Before leaving Aldershot each division was provided with the following reserve of provisions:—Two days' salt provisions, two days' Yateman's sausages, two days' Australian preserved meat, two days' soup and *bouilli*. A detachment of the police is attached to each division, and will act exactly in the same capacity as the Field Gendarmerie Corps acts in the German army, its members, while retaining their civilian jurisdiction *quoad* civilians, having their powers specially extended so as to take cognisance of soldiers engaged in the breach of military law. It is stated that the farmers generally have thrown open their lands with a readiness which could scarcely have been anticipated, and the commissioners speak in high terms of the courtesy with which they have been received by the agricultural community.

The campaign began on Friday. At an early hour in the morning the second and third divisions marched from their camps for Hartford Bridge Flats and Woolmer respectively. The second division reached its destination, which is only six or seven miles off, before evening; but the third division did not proceed further than Frensham, which is thirteen miles from Aldershot. On Friday night there was a heavy fall of rain, and it had not ceased when the march was resumed. In consequence of the bad state of the roads (which had been completely cut up by the Artillery on Friday) several of the hired wagons came to grief, and some accidents of an unimportant nature occurred.

The field telegraph is now in full working order between the different camps and Aldershot. Great efforts were being made by the Control Department to supply transport for the First Division, which was to leave yesterday. Its destination will probably be Chobham. The division is to form up as if to fight an enemy. It is to be considered as obliged to retire, and the retreat will be continued as far as Chobham Ridges, but the enemy will only exist in imagination.

The hospitalities of the camp (the *Times* special correspondent says) are large and generous. On Saturday night Sir Hope Grant and several members of his staff—Colonel Lord Abinger, Colonel Fletcher, Mr. Robinson, Controller; Mr. Crookshank, Assistant Controller; Captain Hozier, Colonel Reilly, and others, dined at the Queen's Hotel to meet the foreign officers who have already arrived; and a party was asked to meet General von Blumenthal and other distinguished guests of the country on Sunday evening.

The same correspondent, describing the visit to the camp of the Commander-in-Chief, says:—

The Duke proceeded to make that careful inspection of the camp which makes his visits by no means agreeable to lax officers. He now gave a controller what is called a "wigging" for some commissariat *laches*, then investigated the condition of the infantry, anon dropped on some "screwy" cavalry horses, and went in and out through the lines, giving a word—and it was more often praise than censure—to the various officers, and giving a keen eye to the Control Department and its workings, which were evident in the production of immense piles of bread and mounds of fresh carcases of beeves from the fast-coming wagons. The Duke took exception to some horses of the 7th Hussars, but that gallant regiment has been under canvas and done very hard work all the spring and summer, and the horses objected to were handed over from the Greys, and were, of course, of a colour which does not hide defects. The Dragoons, Lancers, and Hussars of the Brigade seemed to a less competent judge in very fine order, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hales and Colonel Fiennes would not have much to fear from a German inspecting officer. What after complaints may come it is impossible to divine, but, so far, the Control Department has not justified malignant or hostile prophecies, and has, indeed, to be congratulated on a very creditable *début*. The force which left Aldershot on Friday, small as it was in comparison with the great totals to which recent wars have accustomed our readers, was as large if not larger than the whole British army which landed in the Crimea to attack the colossal power of Russia. It was infinitely better organised and more complete. It carried tents, and its transport was in all respects adequate.

On Monday, during the divisional manœuvres, the Duke of Cambridge had occasion to find fault both with the infantry and artillery for the old fault—not making the most of broken ground. Nor did the reserve troops show to advantage in their advances and changes of front.

Writing on Monday night from Woolmer, where the third division is stationed, the special correspondent of the *Times* (Dr. Russell) writes:—

Two days of bright sun have been quite enough to evaporate the confusion and discomforts of Saturday. Things are settling down, and, doubtless, after a little time, would almost go on of themselves, though they have not yet quite come to this happy conclusion. They *are* going on, but it is by dint of the hardest work from every one concerned, and from the Control Department especially, the officers of which will know neither rest nor quietness till the manœuvres are well over. Everything moves in the right direction, but the strain is so great that one cannot help thinking there is a little grease required somewhere, that some of the parts of the military machine are not turned and fitted to that nicety which secures the *maximum* of motion with the *minimum* of propulsion. After a while all this activity and exertion will probably find its level, but just now there is certainly an uncomfortable and artificial fulness about it.

The camp was full of visitors on Sunday. They swelled the congregation at the two church parades, and everybody praised the singing of the 60th Rifles. On Monday morning work began again. The brigades turned out at eight and drilled till twelve, and in the afternoon three battalions of each brigade were exercised at outpost duty.

The Militia were mixed with Regulars, the front rank being entirely composed of the former and the rear of the latter; the sentries being set double, so that each militiaman had a soldier to teach him his work. The Militia did as well as could be expected, but there is no concealing the fact that the corps called out do not fairly represent the force, that many of them are seedy-looking men in seedy-looking coats, and that the Autumn Manœuvres will fail of half their purpose if our Militia system should continue to enable us to lay hands only on the awkward squad, and not on the *corps d'élite*. But to change the coat is, at any rate, easier than to change the men, and no troops should be allowed to take the field in such wretched garb. Their worn and stained and ill-fitting uniforms crush all the pride out of the wearers, and how tunics which are only worn a month in the year ever got so threadbare is a mystery. The Inns of Court Volunteers marched from Liphook station into camp the day before yesterday, and deserve credit for the way in which, without receiving any hint or instruction whatever, they at once, on leaving the station, formed their advanced guards, and, so soon as they came to the open ground, threw out their skirmishers in proper style. To-morrow the whole division goes out for a field-day to the Weaver Down, about five miles to the south-west, and the next day Sir Charles Staveley will array one brigade against the other. Towards the end of the week the division will make northwards, moving as far as Frensham on Friday, according to present orders. There is some sickness, chiefly diarrhœa, in the camp, but this can have nothing to do with its site, for both here and at Frensham the soil is so light and porous that it drinks up the rain as it falls. The horses keep up their condition pretty well, and catch no coughs. There are no complaints of the Control Department.

The same writer says that both the Duke of Cambridge and Sir Henry Storks have expressed their entire satisfaction at Mr. Deputy-Controller Robinson's management of the Control Department on Friday last. During the twenty-four hours previous to the march, the Supply Branch of the Army Service Corps loaded eighty-five wagons with 25cwt. each, about fifty tons of supplies were received from the railways, 75,000lb. of bread were baked, and 538 sheep slaughtered. All this was done without the assistance of fatigue parties from the troops, some of the assistant-commissaries working for twenty-six hours at a stretch.

IMPORTATION OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS INTO QUEENSLAND.

The *Times* correspondent at Sydney writes:—"I have said little recently respecting the operation of the Polynesian Act in Queensland, because modifications made in that measure have lessened the evils complained of. The traffic has been humanised, and, as might be expected, shows strong gns of collapsing altogether. When once the islanders have tasted the sweets of plantation life in Queensland they are seldom willing to return to it, or, if they do return, they do so only upon such terms as make their labour dear as compared with European. It is now required that a Government agent should proceed with each vessel licensed to recruit in the Southern Seas, and the experience of those who conduct these excursions is that they will not pay the attendant expenses. No native is to be embarked unless with the consent of the chief and himself, and the making out of a formal contract signed by some consul or missionary and the emigrant; and such men are hard to find, and will be still more rare when curiosity is more satisfied. I have before me the report of the cruise of the Harriet King, a vessel fitted for 208 passengers, written by the Government agent, who considers that the traffic cannot last. This document proves the worst fears here entertained with respect to this trade, for, although the crew of this ship obtained a company of immigrants to the number of 106, without engaging in any questionable transactions, they saw and heard enough to prove that 'recruiting' was not always carried on in so pacific a manner. The impression left on the mind of the agent is that, so far as Queensland is concerned, the traffic must die out shortly; not from the inability of the islanders to do the work required of them, but because of their 'utter detestation' of it. His words are, 'Those islanders who have been employed on sugar plantations in Queensland express an utter detestation of the place, and the hard work and hard treatment which they have had to endure, and would not return to the colony at any price.' The agent already quoted also says, 'As the trade is at present carried on, it is impossible that any kidnapping should be done by Queensland vessels, and there is every reason to believe that the trade will die out, as the majority of the islanders who return home decline to emigrate again.' But I fear that the influence of the Queensland license has stimulated a traffic in coloured labour for the supply of Fiji, which has been conducted upon principles far less humane. The narrative already used contains these words:—'Great complaints are made at all the islands of the kidnapping of the natives by the Fiji ships. The regular custom is to overhaul those canoes which are proceeding from one island to another, and bring the natives on board the vessel.' These are facts which will demand the consideration of the British Government."

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The Corn Exchange to-day presented a firm appearance. A fair amount of business was transacted at fully the rates current on Monday last. The show of English wheat was small, but that of foreign was good. A steady inquiry prevailed, at the late improvement.

AMERSHAM HALL SCHOOL,
CAVERSHAM, OXON, near READING.

During the year ending July 22nd, 1871, the following degrees were taken and distinctions obtained by Gentlemen who completed their School Education at Amersham Hall :—

CAMBRIDGE.—B.A., three, of whom one was 14th Wrangler
" General Examination, two.

TRINITY COLL., CAMB.—One Minor Mathematical Scholarship of £75.

TRINITY HALL, CAMB.—Prize in Law and Modern History

GLASGOW.—Diploma of C.E., one.

LONDON.—B.A., two, of whom one was bracketed 1st in Logic and Moral Philosophy Honours, with University Scholarship of £25 for three years. B.Sc., one, who also obtained a Whitworth Scholarship of £100 for three years. First B.A., two. First LL.B., one; and Matriculation, seven, of whom one was 7th in Honours Division, with Gilchrist Scholarship of £50 for three years.

UNIVERSITY COLL., LONDON. — *Faculty of Medicine—Summer Session*, 1870: Five Students gained one Gold Medal, Two Silver Medals, and Six Certificates. *Winter Session*, 1870-71: Six Students obtained Three Gold Medals, Four Silver Medals, and Five Certificates. *Faculty of Arts and Laws and Science:* Five Students gained Nine Prizes of Books and Four Certificates; of these gentlemen one also took the Andrews Prize for Second Year's Students, £50, and another the Andrews Entrance Prize, £20, the First Andrews Prize for First Year's Students, £30, and the Jews' Commemoration Scholarship, £15 for two years.

INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY.—Final Examination with Certificate of Merit, one; Intermediate Examination, one; Preliminary Examination, two.

ROYAL COLL. OF SURGEONS.—First Professional Examination for diploma of F.R.C.S., one; Preliminary Examination for Fellowship, one.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Second Prize in Botany, open to Medical Students in their Second Year.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Mr. J. A. CLAPHAM," of Bradford, begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 100*l.* from Sir Titus Salt, Bart.; 5*l.* from John Clapham, Esq., London; 2*l.* 2s. from Joseph Dawson, Esq., London; 2*l.* from Joshua Wilson, Esq., Tunbridge Wells; 1*l.* 5s. from Charles Carter, Esq., Lancaster; 1*l.* from Jas. B. E. Sowden, Sutton, Surrey, and several smaller sums in stamps, in aid of the fund for the widow and fatherless children of the late John Kelley, killed in the accident to the Skipton and Grassington coach.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1871.

SUMMARY.

WHATEVER may be said as to the policy of the autumn manœuvres in Hampshire, they are a great boon to our daily press, now at the lowest ebb for interesting news. As at this time last year, there are diurnal and voluminous letters from "the camp," speculations on the plans of the Commander-in-Chief, but happily, no lists of killed and wounded. An army of over 35,000 men, larger than the British force landed in the Crimea, and infinitely better found, with its due proportion of cavalry, militia, and volunteers, and ninety guns, was gathered at Aldershot last week. On Friday the operations began. One division marched fourteen, another seven miles, in different directions; and the heavy downpour on Friday night was a real taste of the hardships of campaigning. A third division, which personifies "the enemy," supposed to be in full retreat from the metropolis, left Aldershot yesterday for Chobham. The army that "won't march" is now on the move, and the public is surprised that it can do anything. The troops do not seem at present to mind their rough life in the tented field. They have their rations and foraging parties, their field telegraph, hospitals, and baggage, and the Control Department supplies their wants by rail and wagon, regardless of expense. Special correspondents keep us daily informed of the incidents of the campaign, and a score of foreign military critics are in the camp to take note of the Hampshire manœuvres, to admire the splendid batteries of guns which have been brought into the field, to see how our soldiers cook their food and go through their evolutions, to hob-nob with our martial princes and generals, and to watch the strategy of the commanding officers.

This, we are told, is only the beginning of Mr. Cardwell's great military reforms. Our War Minister, it is said, aims at turning out three or four more such well-equipped and disciplined armies. We are credulous of the report. If we must have a defensive force the public will not complain of any suitable steps taken, or expense incurred to make it efficient. But he would be a bold Minister who should propose, now that Europe is tranquil and the great Powers are leaguing together in the interests of peace, that we should embark afresh in a wasteful military expenditure. Mr. Gladstone's much-abused speech at Whitby may be accepted as a pledge that his Government will not advance further in that direction, and that the resources of this island are not to be squandered in the insensate attempt to rival the armaments of the great military monarchies.

The meetings of members and constituents have begun early this year. Critics hostile to the Government predicted that the Liberal members would shrink back from the ordeal, but on Monday last Mr. Mundella, one of the Radical representatives of Sheffield, boldly confronted some thousands of the working men of that town in Paradise-square. On his elaborate review of the last session we have not space to dwell. The result of this great meeting will rather surprise the opponents of the Government. An amendment to a motion of confidence in the hon. member, censuring his vote on the Royal dowry, was lost by an immense majority, and the original motion was carried by an equally large number. Then followed a resolution to this effect:—"That this meeting having watched the conduct of the present Government during the last session of Parliament, more especially their firm adherence to the Army Bill and the Ballot Bill, tenders them, with thanks, a vote of confidence and approval of their services." This was carried *unanimously* —a really remarkable phenomenon as things go. A further resolution demanding the abolition of the House of Lords met with slender support, though Mr. Mundella's suggestion that that Chamber should be bronght into harmony with the necessities of the times, met with hearty concurrence. Evidently Republican sentiments and bitter hostility to the Government have not made much way among the Sheffield operatives.

The political truce in France continues, and in a few days the National Assembly will adjourn, leaving a committee of twenty-five members at Versailles to assist—or watch—M. Thiers. Financial matters are postponed till after the six weeks' holiday, but the committee on the Budget decline to withdraw their opposition to the proposed import or raw materials, or to add ten per cent. to all the taxes levied in 1872 as M. Pouyer-Quertier has demanded. They propose instead taxes on incomes, horses, carriages, clubs, &c. What *will* the President say to the suggested income-tax, after his passionate protests against such a financial expedient? The Prussian garrisons are now retiring from the department of the Seine, the northern Paris forts, and four other departments, and their headquarters are removed as far east as Nancy. M. Thiers will now have a spell of much-needed repose, and perhaps in the interval party animosity will cool down, so that the Assembly may bend all its energies in November to the terrible financial problem which will come before it.

Mr. Roebuck's "dumb-foundered Spaniard" has become an anachronism. That long-distracted country seems to be on the high road to tranquil development and prosperity. The Spaniards, monarchical by taste and tradition, take very kindly to their new Sovereign. King Amadeus knows how to elicit their sympathies, and his progress through the country has been marked by an outburst of popular enthusiasm which is of good omen for the cause of order and peace. His Government have issued a large loan—which has been seven times covered—to meet the current deficit, aided by sweeping retrenchments. No longer in fear of Papal vetoes, they are cutting down the ecclesiastical establishment of the kingdom; and at peace with their neighbours, they are reducing the military expenditure. Let us hope that Spain, under a Constitutional Monarchy, is destined to resume her proper place among the nations of Europe.

One or two items of interest reach us from the Antipodes. The once ardent Repealer, Mr. Duffy, has now become the chief Minister of Victoria—a colony which seems disposed to adopt a Protectionist tariff for the supposed benefit of native industry. By Christmas next it is expected that Australia will be in direct telegraphic communication with the mother country. The land line right across the continent, thanks to the enterprise of the South Australians, is making satisfactory progress, and the interior will soon cease to be a *terra incognita*. The portion of the cable which is to complete this grand electric chain, is on its way to Port Darwin, and will be laid down in the sea which separates North Australia from Timor, to which point the telegraph has already been carried. In a few months "the girdle round the earth" is likely to bring us messages from our Antipodean cousins. A few hours will place them in possession of the cream of European news, for the details of which they must perforce wait for two long months. The time cannot be far distant when the Colonial Minister in his cabinet in Downing-street will be able to exchange telegraphic despatches with England's forty colonies.

MR. GOSCHEN AT THE CUTLERS' FEAST.

THE British public hardly expected, at this early season in the recess, a second vindication of the Government from the lips of a Cabinet Minister. Nevertheless, it has received one. Mr. Goschen, the First Lord of the Admiralty, accepted an invitation to attend the Cutlers' Feast at Sheffield. He did this, it may be supposed, with the sanction of the Premier, and with an implied understanding as to the use to be made of the opportunity. We regard his speech, therefore, as the interpretation put by Her Majesty's Ministers, in their collective capacity, upon the unsatisfactory character of the session. It was able, frank, and courageous, and not a whit the less so because the clear, firm, leading utterances which constituted what we may call its theme, were contrasted with a graceful running accompaniment of apologies. The mere fact that so soon after the prorogation of Parliament, both Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goschen should encroach upon their laboriously-earned rest, by making or finding an occasion to defend the policy of the Government during the late Parliamentary campaign, shows that they are hardly satisfied with it, or, at any rate, with the tactics by which they sought to realise it, and that they have become fully aware of the disappointment and discontent which threaten the unity, and, ultimately, the supremacy of the Liberal party. It would, therefore, be a questionable kindness to conceal from them that view of the situation which presents itself to those who are outside the charmed circle of official life. There may be no sufficient reason to withdraw general political confidence in Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues—but we do not think that the line of defence taken up by themselves against the criticisms of their own supporters is anything like so strong as they seem to imagine.

Mr. Goschen made a fair and impressive appeal to his audience, to bear in mind "the tremendous responsibilities and the fearful anxieties which beset Ministers day by day"—"responsibilities beyond those which we owe to our supporters." There is a sense, and a high sense, moreover, in which it is true, as the First Lord of the Admiralty said, that "the Government of this country represents more than the head of a party," and that it has "functions beyond those of keeping a party together." In respect of Ministerial responsibilities and anxieties, we ought, no doubt, to appreciate them, so far as may dispose us to temper judgment with consideration. But they are no proper apology for failure. Every member of the Cabinet voluntarily accepted them with the position and the honours with which they are associated. Office brings with it, we can well comprehend, a crowd of difficulties—but those who take office, take it under an engagement to meet, and if possible to surmount them. There has never been a Government in this country whatever, and how unfortunate soever may have been its policy or its procedure, which could not have put forward this plea in its defence. The plea is valid enough so far as it goes—but it is seldom advanced unless in lack of a better. And then, as to Government in this country representing more than a party, and having functions beyond that of keep-

ing a party together, one may admit the general statement, without forfeiting the right to ask why it has become necessary to advance such a statement. What great object have Ministers accomplished, either this year or last, by merging the alliance due to their party in the responsibilities they owe to the country at large? If they could lay their finger upon any one principle they have enounced, or any single legislative enterprise on which they have embarked, or any one feat which they have performed, which the welfare of their country demanded, and which separated them from their followers, they would surely have done so. The complaint made of them is that they are divided from a large body of their own supporters, not by their obvious deference to the will of the nation, but by a wilful and obstinate sanction of, and adherence to, the crotchets of individual members of the Cabinet, in opposition to the judgment, not of their party merely, but of the country.

There is more pertinent truth in what the First Lord of the Admiralty told his audience in respect of the novel subjects which legislation is now beginning to embrace. We have come to the end, or very nearly so, of those political topics with which many years' discussion has made us familiar. We are passing from the political to the social, in Parliamentary action. We are doing so in general conformity with the public wish; but there is no disguising the truth that we are moving into a region in which not a few dangers await us, and wherein the wariest walking is to be desired. We are glad to find that Her Majesty's Ministers are fully awake to the need there is for caution and for firmness, and that they are disposed to set their faces against the practice, so earnestly enforced upon them by the experts of the day, of undertaking to do by law for individuals that which it is the duty of individuals to do for themselves. These social topics, when brought under the consideration of Parliament, unquestionably require an increased amount of discussion, and, when presented in the shape of practical measures, demand much time for the sifting of details. It may be, therefore, that for some time to come the procedure of Parliament in regard to these matters will heavily tax the patience of the public. We admit all this; but we think it right to look at the other side of the question. In the first place, social topics do not invite party obstruction. They are usually promoted by men of influence on both sides of the House. Indeed, they frequently owe more to the assistance of independent members, both on the right and on the left of the Speaker's chair, than to Ministers themselves, and, we need hardly add, that a vast amount of superfluous debate is thereby avoided. But, in the second place, and on the supposition that they require the most careful and elaborate treatment, there surely can be no reason for heaping a crowd of crudely prepared measures upon the table, and needlessly provoking a wide combination of all the interests they affect, to secure if possible their defeat. Ministers have probably been made wiser by the experience of last session, and we will hope that their next programme of work will take into account, not only those considerations which were apologetically advanced by Mr. Goschen, but also the inevitable limitations of human strength.

To say the truth, however, Mr. Goschen's explanations had less application to last session than we hope they will to the session which is to come. The unsatisfactory character of one of the most laborious sessions on record, unquestionably arose, in great measure, from blunders of generalship. To these we have adverted in former papers. They were numerous and, unhappily, they were obstinately persisted in, against the obvious sense of both supporters and opponents. We cannot but think that in regard to some of them Mr. Gladstone must have been overruled by his colleagues. But the damaging effect upon the Administration was not a whit the less on that account. What comforts us in the review of the past is, that we discover no disposition—so far, at least, as the holiday utterances of Cabinet Ministers can guide us—to deviate in future from the main principles for the legislative assertion of which the present men were put into office. There is no tendency, we hope, to desert the colours around which the Liberal party rallied in 1869. Much has occurred to disappoint and vex the advanced members of that party, and, as it seems to us, without a plausible, much less a sound, excuse for it. But we have no wish to widen differences which relate rather to Parliamentary procedure, than to political principles. We are quite willing to accept such apologetic explanations as the case will admit of. In doing so, however, we must express our earnest hope that the future will assume a character which will require no further elucidation than that which will be given to it by the good sense and good feeling of every member of the community.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

THE Emperors William and Francis Joseph have had their interviews—the first at Gastein; the second at Salzburg—and each potentate has gone his own way. Sovereigns may meet and exchange acts of courtesy without notable results, but when their respective Ministers accompany them important results may be expected. There is no doubt that these diplomatic conferences meant business. Prince Bismarck would hardly, just now, have travelled into the heart of the Kaiser's dominions without a definite purpose; Count Beust could not be expected to seek out his ancient antagonist merely to exchange compliments. That both these statesmen desire peace, is almost too obvious to need remark. They have apparently come to a complete understanding on various important points; they make no secret of their negotiations; and their arrangements are to be soon laid before the German Parliament.

Prince Bismarck, with characteristic foresight, has endeavoured to provide against the future. The London panic-mongers long ago warned us that that astute statesman would join hands with Russia, reopen the Eastern question at Constantinople, and compel England to fight for existence against these colossal Powers. The Prince has, however, as less excited politicians expected, taken quite a different course. Germany has nothing to fear, for the present at least, from Russia—the present Czar being personally averse to war and aggressive action, though by no means unwilling, as recent events have shown, to gain by peaceful diplomacy any advantage which the exigencies of the times will admit of. Nor can Prince Bismark have any apprehension that France will again draw the sword against Germany, unless strongly supported by other Powers. He has, as it were, closed the road from Paris to Berlin by the negotiations at Gastein and Salzburg—which is in reality a boon to France herself. Austria, on the other hand, is threatened by two dangers—the leaning of her German population to the great Fatherland, and the Sclavonic agitation, fomented by Russia, which would equally imperil the integrity of the Austro-Hungarian empire. A complete understanding with Germany would guard against both these dangers. The two Powers have now no conflicting interests. Both are anxious for the maintenance of European peace, and neither have probably any sinister ulterior objects in view.

We have no doubt the Austrian correspondent of the *Times* describes with accuracy the results of the recent interviews. "There is," he writes, "neither treaty nor convention of any sort made and signed. There is no question pending which could have given rise to such a treaty or convention. There is no sort of alliance, offensive or defensive, made against any one; the name of Russia or France, or any other nation, is not so much as mentioned in the record which both sides drew up, embodying the ideas exchanged. This record, showing as it does a perfect identity of views in the general line of policy to be followed, and the principles which ought to guide it, is but a skeleton which may be filled out should any occasion arise to apply these views and principles. It cannot be often enough repeated that, however natural and unavoidable a rivalry between Austria, the champion of the Catholic South, and Prussia, the leader of the Protestant North, for the supremacy in Germany, a rivalry between Austria, with her eight millions of Germans, and Germany, is nonsense. Not only is there no field for such rivalry, but, on the contrary, both countries have interests which may become antagonistic to the interests of a third Power. Popular feeling on both sides discovered with true instinct from the first moment that the rivalry between Austria and Prussia had lost its object by the union of all Germany. Pass through Germany, and you will find that there are no two opinions about it. You find the same unanimity among the Germans of Austria." This then is no Holy Alliance between arbitrary potentates, but a tacit understanding between two peoples whose enmities are hushed, and whose interests require a mutual friendship. If Prince Bismarck had desired that his master should be military dictator of Europe, he would not have made advances to Count Beust. If the Austrian Chancellor had been tempted with any proposals of alliance from France, he would have held aloof from the Prussian statesman.

So far, then, as can be seen, Europe has everything to hope from the alliance of the two great Powers of Central Europe. By this agreement Russia on the one hand and France on the other is held in check, and Italy is saved from all anxiety in respect to her possession of Rome. The Governments of Berlin and Vienna are, by the strange conjunction of events, equally interested in repudiating the claims of the Pope and in weakening his authority. In the eyes of both the loss of the temporal power is a set-off against the new pretensions of the Papacy, which strike at the rights of every Government. Between these three Powers there may be no League of Peace, as has been rumoured, but their combined influence will, we think, for some time to come go far to guarantee Europe against disturbance either from Russian ambition or French restlessness. The "Battle of Dorking" must therefore be put off *sine die*. On the whole a Teutonic invasion of England is more wildly improbable than a French descent on our shores. If Germany takes the place of France as the arbiter of Europe, Europe has reason for congratulation that Germany is giving every indication of a desire to pursue a pacific and non-aggressive policy. For perhaps a couple of years, thanks to Prince Bismarck and our cordial relations with the United States, England may be spared the disgrace of another outbreak of "Alarmism."

It is said that the successful negotiations at Gastein and Salzburg have given umbrage to M. Thiers. That statesman finds the door closed to any alliances against the late conqueror of France. But the President of the French Republic cannot be under the delusion that his country, under any conceivable circumstances, would be able to wage another and a successful war against Germany. The French amended Budget of 1871, now under discussion, is said to have struck consternation among the members of the National Assembly. M. Pouyer-Quertier requires some twenty-six millions sterling of taxation to make good the yearly deficit, and now at length M. Thiers is coming to see that some reduction must be made in that huge army which he had resolved to keep on foot. As Prince Bismarck's diplomacy has closed the door to a policy of revenge, we may yet see French statesmanship brought to acknowledge that great and useless armaments are the main obstacle to the financial recovery of the country.

THE LAND QUESTION.

By the Rev. CHRISTOPHER NEVILE.

IV.

ASSUMING the public good to be the foundation of all rights of property, it is quite competent for the State to deal with the extent of estates, the size of farms, the terms on which agricultural land is let, the transfer of land by sale and purchase, and the devolution of land on the death of the possessor by will, or otherwise. The right of the State to supreme control cannot be disputed: it has constantly been exercised, and the only question which need be discussed is the *expediency* of interference with individual liberty in the use, the disposal, and the possession of property. All history shows that the attempts of the State to set aside *natural* laws have been most injurious to the public welfare. In cases where a large landowner involved himself in difficulties by gambling, dissipation, or extravagance, the natural consequence would be that his estates would be sold to pay his debts, and would come into the possession of those who would make a better use of them. The permission to entail land is an interference with this natural law, and the public injury is sufficiently manifest. But when we are asked what is the extent of an estate, or the size of a farm most conducive to the public benefit, we should answer it by asking another question—what is the best size of a shop, a manufactory, or a warehouse? If a landowner with 2000 acres of land is placed, by his own extravagance, or the misconduct of his predecessors, in such a position that he cannot profitably hold his estate, or do justice to its capacity for improvement, his own real interest and the public welfare alike require that it should be sold to a more wealthy or intelligent proprietor, it may be, of 10,000 or 20,000 acres. On the other hand, reversing the circumstances, the national good is promoted by the sale of a large encumbered estate in the hands of a worthless or useless possessor to several enterprising capitalists, who can increase the productive qualities of the land. The very same argument applies to large and small farms. It is impossible to fix upon any particular size for a farm most conducive to the public advantage. Where a large farm is badly cultivated, from a deficiency of labour, skill, and capital, the public interest gains by its subdivision into smaller farms, to be better cultivated by a larger amount of capital per acre. Ample security should, under all circumstances, be given to the occupying tenant for any beneficial outlay either by lease, agreement, or

courts of equity—not the *equity* of our Courts of Chancery, which the Lord Chancellors themselves frequently admit to be *iniquity*.

As a general principle, it may be asserted that the *real* interest of the landowner and that of the community is identical, but the principle, to some extent, fails where estates are of immense extent, affording incomes far in excess of what the possessors can require. A man (say) who has an income of 50,000*l*. a year from 50,000 acres of land, or near, has no inducement to increase his rental or add to the selling value of his estate. On the contrary, he may choose to give up 10,000*l*. a year of his rent to game, under inferior cultivation, with less employment of labour and capital. If the State interfere, for its own apparent benefit, to compel him to make better use of his land as owner, on the very same principle the occupying tenant must be compelled to apply higher cultivation: to drill his turnips at larger intervals, or to put on an additional quantity of bones or guano. We should find ourselves involved in an endless system of paternal government, managing everybody's business much worse than most of the parties themselves would manage it. Were we to limit the size of estates, what is to be that limit? Say 10,000 acres. We should then artificially interfere with a natural law, which now enables a wealthy and intelligent landowner to obtain by purchase an additional 1000 acres, to the great benefit of the community.

A total abolition of all entails and settlements, and rating or taxing land at its real selling value, can, we believe, be justified on the soundest principles of political economy, and would inevitably break up these enormous and overgrown estates in the ordinary course of events. The owners would be indirectly compelled to sell part of their vast property, or improve it.

The necessity for reducing the cost of the transfer of land to the lowest possible amount is too obvious to require argument. In this locality a poor man sold a cottage and land, which he was too infirm to cultivate, for 200*l*., to set up his son, a most worthy young man, in a business to which he had been apprenticed. When a seller signs the usual contract, he engages "to make out a title," which he is then obliged to do. The title *was* ultimately made out, the expenses were 210*l*., and this unfortunate man lost his whole property, and had to borrow 10*l*. to pay his lawyer's bill! Here the State, by a senseless law or *system*, offers a great impediment to a natural law, which would beenficially transfer land from one person to another.

Assuming that entails and settlements in land were abolished, leaving power to provide for widows or others by a rent-charge, which would not in the least interfere with the free transfer of land, there remains to be considered the devolution of land by will. The right to dispose of land, or other property, by will is not a *natural* right; a man in this case "does what he likes with his own" because the State, or the community, *permits* him to do so, and it surely cannot be disputed that the State may withdraw such permission. This testamentary power has been advocated on the hypothesis that the State is benefited by the individual accumulation of wealth, and that every motive should be given to such accumulation. "*Crescit amor nummi quantum ipsa pecunia crescit*," was said by the ancients centuries ago, and on still higher authority we are told that "the love of money is the root of all evil." It is at least questionable how far public policy requires this additional incentive to the acquisition of either money or land. That a Parliament of will-makers should ever give up the legal right to "do what they like with their own" is not very probable, and the working men element does not yet exist in the House of Commons. We are often led to generalise from our own limited knowledge, or experience; but our conviction is that if the great enemy of mankind, and the legal profession, were to agree upon the best means of promoting their mutual interests, they could not hit upon a better expedient than giving to rich men the power of making wills. The greatest possible litigation can thus be combined with "hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." If a return could be made to Parliament of all the families whose peace and happiness have been destroyed by the dead man's hand; if an account could be rendered of the immense sums wasted in disputing or carrying out these wills by trusts, and otherwise, it might make some impression even upon the will-making class.

Let us take a few cases. A gentleman with an estate of 10,000*l*. a year, entailed it upon his only son, who had an only child, a daughter; only 5,000*l*. each was left to his own three daughters; at four per cent. this would be 200*l*. a year. The house steward of the heiress would certainly have a better income than this gentleman's daughters. In six months, by the death of her father, the granddaughter came into possession, married, and died in four years, leaving the whole estate to her husband. Thus in four years and six months all the testator's immense property passed to an absolute stranger, leaving his three daughters only 15,000*l*. amongst them. In the very same county, a gentleman succeeded to an ancient family estate of 1,600*l*. a year, strictly entailed on heir male. He had one son. A cottage and a few acres of land, let at 30*l*. a year, was the only provision for his widow and five daughters in case of his death, and he had been rejected for heart disease by an insurance office during his father's life. A fortune of 20,000*l*. had been left to a younger brother. A few hours' illness, or a collision on a railway, might have placed this estate in the possession of this younger brother, in addition to his own fortune of 20,000*l*. 30*l*. a year would have been left for the widow and five daughters—or two shillings a week each. Now two shillings a week and a loaf is the lowest outdoor relief, and therefore some assistance would have been required from the parish rates.

A great deal may be said in favour of primogeniture. Dr. Johnson approved of it, as it made only one fool in a family. It may be better, even on public grounds, that the younger sons should be led to a course o industry, instead of wasting their time in idleness on their share of the paternal estate; but worked as it is at present by the caprice, the injustice, or the imbecility of testators, it brings little happiness to families whatever good or evil may arise to the public. An enormous amount of litigation arises from disputed wills, and when land is concerned, the community greatly suffer. A poor idiot once left a large family estate to his butler, under whose control he had lived many years. The heir-at-law disputed the will; in the first trial the heir-at-law gained a verdict; in the second the butler was victorious; on appeal at a third trial, the decision was reversed, and the heir-at-law gained the estate. The expenses were said to be nearly 100,000*l*. It could not signify much to the public whether the butler won or lost, except as a matter of justice and right, but for many years this estate was "in Chancery." No capital could be laid out on it; no additional labour could be employed upon it, it was probably allowed to become dilapidated, and the community necessarily suffered. Whether it would be expedient or not that the law should distribute every man's property at his death may be doubtful, but it is certain that greater cruelty, injustice, wastefulness, discord, and unhappiness, could not result, than we may daily see under the "last will and testament."

The English people have hitherto shown a very strong sense of justice. Whenever a change was to be made, or an abuse swept away, sufficient attention has been paid to "vested interests." Political power may now be placed in the hands of the working classes. They may have many faults; they may be much mistaken in some of their opinions; but taken collectively, there is not a more honest class in the kingdom; no appeal would be made to them in vain in a case of plain justice, when fairly explained to them. It is, however, impossible, in passing *general* laws, to avoid some *individual* hardships. In this matter, however, the landowners need not be without some consolation. When they had complete control of the Legislature, they became shocked and grieved at the discord arising from the parson collecting his tithes in kind. They lamented that the *community* should suffer by the discouragement to improved cultivation by this particular kind of Church property. They had bought or inherited their land liable to this encumbrance, and had not the least ground for private or personal complaint. But they were patriotic and peace-loving men, and both Whig and Tory landowners cordially joined in a "commutation" of tithes. Now, in strict justice, the tithes of every parish should have been placed at their full value, and an *additional* sum for prospective increase from improved cultivation. This, however, was not the basis on which the commutation was carried out. An average was taken for seven years of what the clergyman had been content to take, from his ignorance or liberality, and twenty per cent. was the fixed limit of addition, except in a very few special cases. We will not here raise any argument as to whether Church property is or is not public property; but it is absolutely certain that, by a measure professing to be for the public advantage, the landowners raised the value of their property by an amount to great to be estimated, and to which they had not the smallest equitable claims.

God forbid that I should write anything to set man against man, or class against class. So far as my poor abilities and opportunities would allow, my endeavour has been to diminish the bitterness of religious or political contests. What changes can be beneficially made in our laws respecting land may be a matter of much controversy; but a higher power than man has established a law which is *never* broken, that no man and no class can permanently benefit by the loss or the injury of those around them; and let this be the spirit in which the Land Question is discussed and settled.

A RUN INTO NORMANDY.

(*From a roving Correspondent.*)

IT was with a feeling of relief that I quitted Paris for a district of France which but lightly felt the miseries of war, and has not had to suffer the shame of insurrection. And what Englishman with any soul in him could look forward without interest to a visit to that part of France with which we are familiar as Normandy; though the French authorities, by splitting it up into departments, have suppressed the name?

The South-Western Railway Company seeks to attract passengers to Paris *vid* Havre by advertising it as "The cheap and picturesque route," and picturesque it undoubtedly is; though, in that respect, I do not know that it surpasses the journey *vid* Dieppe, while from Rouen it is absolutely the same. Undulating, well-wooded, with the Seine meandering through a lengthened tract of country, with busy manufacturing villages, as well as sweet pastoral scenes, the English traveller who has associated France only with the dreary journey between Boulogne and Paris is surprised as much as he is delighted by the trip.

I had thoroughly explored Rouen on a former occasion, and now only passed through it on my way to Havre, and, reaching there, found it an agreeable change to catch sight of a forest of masts, and to see signs of great commercial activity, in lieu of the loafing soldiery and the faded gaiety of Paris. Havre is a large, well-built, and well-located city at the mouth of the Seine, with a good jetty and bathing-place, and conveniently near to many places of great beauty or interest. It has a fine marine aquarium, with four-and-twenty tanks, in which fish of large size, or of grotesque form, disport themselves, and which is, I presume, the model of that which will shortly astonish, and I hope instruct, visitors to our own Brighton. But it was chiefly as a convenient starting-place for a short run through Normandy that I made Havre my headquarters for a short time.

Normandy has attractions for two very different classes, viz., those for whom the seaside has irresistible charms, and those who find in ancient towns and villages that which delights the artist, the historian, and the antiquary. The former happen to be nearest at hand, and were therefore first visited; for Etretat, Fécamp, and Trouville, with some minor places, are all within easy reach of Havre by diligence, rail, or steamboat.

Etretat is probably unknown to most Englishmen, and it was not until a comparatively few years ago that the French artist Isabey, and our own Stanfield, made its beauties known in either country. Now, it is much resorted to from Paris, and, it is said, largely by the literary and artistic class. It is a romantic spot—half fishing village, half watering-place—situate at the mouth of two glens, and is suggestive of Shanklin or Ventnor. The chalk cliffs are 300 feet high, and are finely broken by small coves and headlands, and there is splendid rambling-ground over the green and well-wooded hills around. But natural scenery appears to have fewer attractions for the French than for the English; for I found scarcely any visitors on the heights, but enough and to spare on the beach. There—close to the old fishing-boats, converted into storehouses for fishing-tackle, and with straw-thatched roofs which have a semi-marine and semi-rural look—there is not only the elaborate bathing machinery in which the French excel, but the Casino, with its promenade, its concert-room, and its billiards.

Etretat is sixteen miles from Havre, and may be reached by diligence and rail, or by diligence alone. I preferred the latter, for the better view of the country, and then, walking twelve miles further to Fécamp, I passed through many a harvest-field, and noted the characteristics of French, as compared with English rural life. The soil is everywhere well cultivated, but there are not the richness, the trimness, and the indications of comfort and refinement, to be seen in many of our rural parishes,

and the people look as though they led a harder life than most of our rurals. Fécamp itself required but little time to be spent upon it. It is a small seaport town, with a casino and bathing establishment tacked on to it. But the tide was down, and the odour from the harbour unpleasant, and though, no doubt, pleasant excursions may be made in the neighbourhood of the town, the town itself seemed uninviting.

It is quite otherwise with Trouville, as no doubt, many English visitors already know. That is the Brighton, or the Scarborough, of France, and, in the height of the season, has its 20,000 visitors. It is but three-quarters of an hour's ride from Havre, near the estuary of the Seine, and from an old-fashioned fishing-village has become a handsome seaside town– thanks to the landscape painters and the authors who first gave it fame, and to the architects and builders who have since added to its attractions. For it has its grand hotels, and elegant villas, as well as its casino and baths, and yet, on a market-day, you have some of the characteristics of old Normandy life, in the sea of white-capped heads presiding over the stalls, whereon are displayed such grapes, such peaches, and such plums, as reconcile the bye-stander to the blazing sunshine which has brought them to such perfection. Then there are splendid sands for the bathers, with admirable regulations for comfort, for decency, and for safety; while, when the tide is down, or the sea has tired the gazers, there is the inland scenery of hill and dale, with a walk along the cliff to the village of Villerville, as charming as any to be taken in the little island washed by the Solent sea. Or, if solitude be desired, *plus* the sea, you have but to cross a stream, and you are in the new wateringplace of Deauville —the creation of the late Duke de Morny, where there are wide streets, and stately shops, and a large hotel, and a spacious casino, but very few inhabitants. It is no doubt a place of the future, and perhaps that is why only the pedestal for the monument of the Duke has been erected; the inhabitants intending that their gratitude shall grow with their prosperity!

The old town of Lisieux is an hour's railway ride from Trouville, on the way to Caen. It is about as quaint as Rouen; while it has none of the houses and streets in the Parisian style which are spoiling that glorious old city. It has some stirring historical memories, for here Henry I. summoned the Norman barons in 1107; here Thomas à Becket lived, while out of sorts with King Henry; and here came Geoffrey Plantagenet from Anjou, to besiege the town, which the garrison destroyed, rather than that it should fall before the assault of the invader. Now, its chief attraction is the Church of St. Pierre, once a cathedral—a noble specimen of architecture of the early pointed style, with a front characterised by simple, solid grandeur, and an interior of fine proportions and of great beauty.

It is, however, in Caen that the lovers of the beautiful in architecture will find the choicest feast; for the churches are as numerous as those of Rouen, and, I think, have a beauty of a more chaste and impressive character. It needs not to be remembered that William the Conqueror founded the Abbey Church of St. Etienne, and that it was his place of burial, to view it with deep interest; for its Norman towers, its lofty spires of a later date, and its grand and impressive nave and aisles, both affect the imagination and take a strong hold on the memory. Then there is the Church of St. Trinité. Let any one who doubts the capability of Norman architecture to produce, not only grand but beautiful effects, study that noble western front, and that wonderful combination of rounded and lofty arches which he will find within. And then, for those who love the rich ornamentation of a later period, there is the Church of St. Pierre. Has the poetry of ecclesiastical architecture ever soared to a greater height than in that matchless tower and spire, and in those slender columns, those sublimely lofty arches, and that seemingly light and self-sustaining roof? Caen is, in fact, either so rich in churches, or so wanting in worshippers, that, like Rouen, it has put some of them to secular uses, and those of the baser sort. For one has been converted into a builder's depot and is filled with scaffold-poles, bricks, and timber; and another serves the purpose of a hayloft! Yet they are buildings of great architectural merit, and the sight of one of them, at least, devoted to its present use, would make English High Churchmen rave and archæologists moan. Caen, however, as a town is not decaying, if some of its churches are. It is full of life and business, and every now and then the visitor is surprised as he hears, from within a building of the most ancient type, the thud of the steam-engine, and the whirl of the spinning-jenny, which tell of the ingenuity and of the manufacturing industry of these later times.

Bayeux is pronounced by a guide book to be "a small and sleepy old city," and perhaps it is; but let no traveller to Normandy miss it on that account. It contains two objects which will attract, according to the taste of the visitor. It has an exquisite cathedral, and the celebrated Bayeux tapestry is there. As the cathedral was burnt in 1077, was rebuilt and burnt again in 1106, was altered in the last, and has been restored during the present century, it is mixed in style; but the general effect, both of the exterior and the interior, is in the highest degree beautiful. Shall I say that I admired it more than the Cathedral of Cologne? I suppose that would in some quarters be deemed architectural heresy; but, while the prettiness of that edifice is indisputable, I doubt that—in its present unfinished state—it can compete with Bayeux in the fertility of design, the boldness of conception, and the effectiveness of grouping by which the last-named building is characterised.

The tapestry has no more beauty than the figures on a willow-pattern plate; but, as a series of pictures of the conquest of England by the Normans, it is one of the most interesting pieces of illustrated history in existence. Quite unlike the large and florid pieces of tapestry with which we are familiar, it is but twenty inches deep, though its great length (212 feet) admits of the insertion of 72 scenes, containing about 1500 figures. It is stated that, when the First Napoleon thought of invading England, he sent this tapestry through Normandy, from theatre to theatre, to rouse the people. I doubt that the device could have been successful; for, though this tapestry may excite enthusiasm in the minds of historians and of antiquaries, it is not of a character to induce the Gallic cock to fight.

A visit to the town of St. Lo and to Courtanches —the last-named town containing another cathedral on which I might shower eulogistic epithets—and a long diligence ride to Granville, finished my run into Normandy, which was full of interest, and just long enough to beget the desire to go again, either to see what was missed then, or to see more leisurely what had already excited admiration. There are towns and villages which could not be visited in the few days at my disposal, but which would afford pleasure equal to that furnished by those which I was able to include in my hasty tour. There was rich, soft scenery such as we are accustomed to associate with England alone. There were picturesque buildings—half farmhouse, half chateau—which disturbed the idea that you were actually travelling over English ground. There were village churches, so sweet and pure in style, and simple in construction, as to make one wish that many of our architects and church builders were sent to learn again their art in Normandy. And there were, amid all that was picturesque and striking, some sights and incidents suggestive of reflections which made the traveller sad, by reminding him of the ignorance, the superstition, and the political subjection which characterise the inhabitants of so large a portion of a fair, and, in physical respects, a favoured land. If, in matters of taste, the cultivated Englishman is apt at times to disparage England, as he compares it with continental countries, his morality, his religion, and his love of freedom keep his country in the old place in his affections. He enjoys occasional travel in Europe, but he prefers to *live* at home.

MEN AND THINGS IN AMERICA.

(*By a Cosmopolitan.*)

THE SCOTT CENTENNIAL.

The centennial of Walter Scott has been nobly commemorated in the United States. The Scottish Societies everywhere took the lead in getting up the demonstrations, but the Americans joined in with a heartiness and an enthusiasm which showed that the Wizard of the North is revered by the whole people, and not by a mere section of citizens. Within recent years there has been the Centennial of Burns, the Tercentenary of Shakspeare, and now the Centennial of Scott, and on each of these occasions Americans have been as active in commemorative efforts as Englishmen or Scotchmen themselves. In another dozen years will come the centenary of the immortal author of Rip Van Winkle, and then I hope that Englishmen will return the fraternal actions of Americans by celebrating in honour of Washington Irving, whose friendship for Scott was alike creditable to both those literary giants.

The papers will tell you how in New York and other cities the 15th of August was a *gala* day; how there were grand processions with civic pomp, and how the kilted Highlander and the bagpiper were "the observed of all observers." I prefer to tell you how in the interior of New York State the day was honoured.

In the city of Troy there is an association called the "Sons of Scotia," which naturally took the initiative in the matter. Under the auspices of this society a grand banquet was held in Harmony Hall, the finest public hall in Troy. The present writer was a guest on this occasion, and on him devolved the honour of responding for "the Poets of England."

It was eight o'clock p.m. when we assembled to eat our Scott dinner. The hour was late, but the Trojans are an aristocratic sort of Republicans, and, being also American sovereigns, they were, of course, *en règle* in dining as late as other monarchs are said to do. The Sons of Scotia are not all teetotallers, but their banquet was a temperance affair. Coffee and lemonade were all the liquors provided. It is a fact that here the people are so far advanced in teetotalism that many non-teetotallers think it best to exclude wine from public dinners. Our chairman, although himself connected with the wine trade, supported a Maine law for this evening.

It was fearfully hot, and not even Colman's starch could remain stiff ten minutes in such an atmosphere as we breathed. As you know, I have always been an anti-slavery man, but after an evening at Harmony Hall, I think that if ever there were extenuating circumstances to be alleged for slaveholders, it was when they bought slaves to fan them. I know Cowper said *he* "would not have a slave" to "fan him while he slept"; but then Cowper never was in Troy. Cowper never had to sit from eight p.m. to two a.m. in a stifling room, in which every *white* person was melted down to human jelly, while the "coloured brethren," who were the *garçons* of the occasion, were all the while as "cool as cucumbers." Perhaps I was not altogether sound in the anti-slavery faith that night, for I believe if I could have captured a black brother and made him fan me, I should have been in danger of backsliding from the principles George Thompson taught me.

Mr. Dugald Campbell, who presided at the Scott banquet, is the President of the Sons of Scotia in Troy. Born in Glasgow, he has lived in America many years; and he presided also at a Burns Centennial banquet a few years ago. He was, therefore, the right man in the right place, and especially so because, himself a man of literary powers, he knows the works of Scott and Burns almost by heart. In the chair Mr. Campbell won golden opinions by his short and pithy remarks. He had the meeting well in hand throughout

An eminent Troy lawyer, B. H. Hall, delivered a very admirable address on Scott. The Rev. Dr. Vincent, a Presbyterian divine, spoke eloquently on "The Land of Scott.' A witty Irishman, Mr. Thomas Maguire, spoke in response to the sentiment of "Woman." Professor Baerman, a German-American, delivered a powerful address on "German Literature," and the Hon. Judge Lansing, of Lansingburgh—representing an old family celebrated in this district—eloquently testified to the virtues of "the Scot in America." The "Literature of France" was not responded to because the Frenchman who was to have spoken failed to put in an appearance. "The Poets of Ireland" were warmly and deservedly eulogised by Justice Neary, who, however, did not improve his speech by claptrap talk about "the wrongs of Ireland," and the "tyranny of England." Justice Neary is a politician, and he knew what he was about, for his speech was sure to be read and appreciated by certain patriotic voters. It will be an evil day for some American politicians when Ireland's wrongs no longer afford a theme for cheap popularity. Sime I came over here, I have found numbers of Irish-Americans, born in the United States, who could tell me in public meetings more about "the wrongs of Ireland" than I could ever learn among Irishmen in Ireland. This is only a case of going from home to get news.

The Scot in America is very Scottish even to the third and fourth generation. I have met Englishmen and Irishmen more American than the native Americans, but I am bound to say that Scotchmen everywhere never forget "the old country," notwithstanding that they are quite as loyal to the Stars and Stripes as more blatant patriots. The old cynic who declared that there were "only two kinds of Scotchmen—Scotchmen and d—d Scotchmen," was not far wrong, for some-

how they generally excel in good or evil. So far, however, we have seen no Scotchman in America deserving to be designated with the unpleasant adjective. The American-Scotch have as much genuine national feeling as the American-Irish, but they do not make political capital of it. I have such a warm love for Irishmen—born of many pleasant visits to Ireland—that I feel very sad when I see them befooled by astute wire-pullers who care only to bag Irish votes.

The Scott Centennial Banquet will long be remembered in Troy as one of the most successful celebrations ever held in that city. To me, thousands of miles away from friends and country, it was a privilege to be permitted to take part in honouring my favourite writer of fiction. It was also a matter of pride to see men of all nations assembled in an American city for the peaceful purpose of commemorating the birth of a great intellect whose triumphs were of the pen and not of the sword. Now that the centennial is past, I hope Americans will read more of "Waverley," and less of the "wishy-washy twaddle," which the *New York Independent* has joined with me in condemning.

On the Saturday after the Troy Banquet, the Cohoes Caledonian Club celebrated the Scott Centennial in an eminently Scottish way. On a beautiful island in the Mohawk River, and beneath a cloudless summer's sun, there was an exhibition of the sports and pastimes of Scotland, which the great Sir Walter loved so well. We had, of course, Highlanders and bagpipes, and plenty of Scotchmen to talk the accent. For a few hours we felt as if it was in "Caledonia stern and wild" that we were. In all the feats of strength James Fleming, a Scotch athlete travelling through the States, was victor, and as he carried off each prize, a grim newly-imported Glasgow man chuckled, and said to me, "That's the pure Scotch blood; America can't come up to it." Hurrah for the "Land o' cakes."

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

CONFERENCES OF CLERGY AND LAITY.

The *Times* would be glad to see the clergy and laity, and all classes, too, of the clergy and laity, on a better understanding, and engaged in common thought, feeling, and action; but it confesses its inability to apprehend the proposal to hold in every archdeaconry conferences of clergy and laity, alternating with visitations, and recurring once in four years, except as a wild, grotesque outline symbolising ecclesiastical unity. Imagine a House of Commons composed of a much greater variety of men than are now found in it—composed of nominees of vestries, lords, colleges, agricultural societies, and corporations—meeting for four hours once in four years to hear a speech by Mr. Bright or Mr. Disraeli; and there one has the very plan proposed for the re-edification of the Anglican Church. This would be only a mockery of consultation and deliberation. If not a delusion it would be a snare. In that body which the clergy hold themselves so free to abuse, there are rules to secure liberty of debate. Every proposition must be made in good time, and in explicit language; it is discussed in many successive stages, and sifted till there can be no mistake about it. But not one of these securities would be possible in a miscellaneous and very motley county gathering, sitting down about noon, rising to dinner at two, returning to work at three, and then dispersing, first slowly, then rapidly, till a dozen or two will be all that remain when the clock strikes five. It would be necessary to arrange well beforehand the selection of speakers, the matter, the order, the limits, and the conclusion to which the assembly shall be invited. Failing these needful precautions, the talkative young curate, any Dissenting churchwarden or nominee of a Liberal association, might rise and occupy the whole time of the conference. But the precautions necessary to prevent such a catastrophe would convert the conference into a public meeting of the usual character—resolutions, movers, seconders, voting, and so forth. The Bishop of Ely hints at a more ordinary benefit likely to grow out of such meetings. He speaks of of them as a way in which clergy and laity may meet together for joint counsel and mutual edification, stirring up one another to love and good works, and healing sores and softening differences. These are excellent ends, no doubt; and only attainable by communication. But what can be done once in four years? Proposals so visionary and impracticable serve only to suggest to those who are willing so to think that the Church of England is past cure, and that it is vain to try anything for her. If this is all that can be done to save her, she will not be saved, they say. But surely it cannot be necessary to risk on such experiments either her safety or her good name?

MR. GLADSTONE AND HIS CRITICS.

The *Telegraph* deprecates the vociferous clamour at Mr. Gladstone on account of the very useful speech delivered by him against "Alarmism." The Premier wishes, without neglecting the conditions of security, to recall those who bear the splendid, the glorious name of Englishmen from an unworthy ague-fit of fear to the calm and manly attitude which befits our well-known resources of men and material and our unequalled natural advantages. He suggests as noble weapons—and surely such they are—justice and goodwill towards our neighbours; and, when friendly measures fail, which is but seldom, then as "hard knocks" as may be needful. Meantime, at home there is a grander war to wage, and for its combats the Premier displays most "bloodthirsty" eagerness. It is the war against "passions, follies, and ignorance," every victory in which for the right side makes the nation stronger than another quarter of a million men could render it. The differences in the Liberal party exhibited at Truro are far more worthy of apprehension than delirious "Battles of Dorking." The unrest of Ireland, the industrial complications among ourselves, the unfinished task of making patriotism and progress go together—these are a hundred times better worth emotion and concern than the bogey enemy who has been coming so many times, and never had a worse chance for coming than at present. We are not, by nature or grace, when our blood is once up, a timid or placable people; and they know it abroad in spite of bilious factiousness and silly pamphlets. The nation thanks, and has great reason to thank, the Minister who, surveying our strength, and hating wanton bloodshed, speaks in manly rebuke against the ridiculous "alarmism," and demonstrates England's might most eloquently by wholly declining to be afraid for her sake. *Nec decedet illum:* thus, and thus only, should an English Premier speak.

THE LATE DR. MORTIMER.

The news of the death of the Rev. Dr. Mortimer, Prebendary of St. Paul's, and for upwards of a quarter of a century Head-Master of the City of London School, announced on Saturday, will have been received with very deep regret by an unusually large circle. A distinguished scholar—first-class in classics in Denison and Wilberforce's year—he was even more remarkable for his power of organisation, the breadth and liberality of his views, and his great success in solving some important educational problems. As Head-Master of the City of London School, he led the way in proving that a great educational establishment could successfully combine Church of England principles and a uniform theological education for Protestant boys, with the free admission of all classes of Dissenters to the secular education of the school. Under his administration the City of London School rose from a comparatively small affair to be a high-class public school numbering upwards of six hundred scholars, always full, and with numerous applicants waiting for admission. While steadily encouraging the teaching of English, modern languages, and rudimentary science in the lower classes, which furnished the highest kind of commercial education, he raised the sixth form to a standard of proficiency which secured for the school in two successive years the senior wranglership, besides a long succession of high mathematical honours for more than one first-class in classics. The Jews owed much to the liberality of Dr. Mortimer, and the City of London School was the first public school in this country in which a Jewish lad ever won a university scholarship. The evidence which he gave before the Public Schools Commission was of the highest value. The confidence which he inspired and the success of his teaching led to the rapid foundation of a great number of valuable scholarships in connection with the school. On his retirement a few years since he received a pension from the Corporation and numerous marks of affectionate esteem from a large body of pupils occupying influential positions. Among his pupils were Mr. Aldis and Mr. Purkess, senior wranglers; Mr. Abbott, senior classic (the present Head-master of the City of London School); Dr. Sharpe, one of the readers of law in the Temple; Mr. Ernest Hart; and, we believe, also the late Numa Hartog; Mr. Nelson, the City Solicitor, with many well-known persons in professional and commercial life in the City of London.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE BONAPARTES.

The *Times*, referring to the letter recently written by Prince Napoleon, says that, whatever may be said about the Bonapartist interest being now in the ascendant in France, the cause of the fallen dynasty is not likely to be advanced by the indiscreet propensity of any of the family to rush into print. Unquestionably, there may yet be a chance for the Bonapartes. Revolution never has said its last word in any country, and less in France than in any other; but the realisation of the hopes of the Imperialists is more like to be the result of sheer chance than of rational foresight. M. Paul de Cassagnac takes his ground on the supposition that the Emperor may again become, as he has been, the peasants' candidate. But he forgets that what endeared personal rule to the peasantry was its boasted security and prosperity, its promise of peace and order. Moreover, where the priests go there the peasants follow, and it is a symptom boding no good to the Napoleons, that, while the Pope congratulates M. Thiers on his elevation to the Presidency of the Republic, he at the same time allows his clerical organs to launch out into bitter invectives against the Imperial *régime*. The glorious tradition of the First Empire lead many to fancy that the real stronghold of Napoleonism must be sought in the army. But it should be borne in mind that the military *prestige* of the First Empire has been utterly broken by the disasters of the Second; that, whatever, may be said in behalf of the personal courage of the present head of the dynasty, the second generation of the Bonapartes has not produced a single general; and that, if warlike deeds may be supposed to exercise an irresistible fascination on the imagination of Frenchmen, the Duc d'Aumale, the Duc de Chartres, and the Comte d'Eu have better titles to the suffrage of their countrymen than any successors of those marshals whom the First Napoleon raised to the rank of Princes of his House.

CUTTINGS FROM OUR AMERICAN EXCHANGES.

The Congregationalists of the United States will hold a National Council at Oberlin, Ohio, on the 15th November.

California meditates a grand project for obtaining an adequate supply of fresh water for San Francisco. Lake Tahoe, over 100 miles distant, is to be reached by piercing a tunnel through the Sierra Nevada, on which work was to begin on the 1st September.

The following particulars are given by the Census bureau:—

	Census of 1860.	Census of 1870.
Whites	27,003,314 ...	33,586,989
Coloured ...	4,441,766 ...	4,880,009
Indians	— ...	25,731
Chinese	— ...	63,254
Total ...	31,445,080	38,555,983

The Indians and Chinese are included among the whites in the return for 1860. The Chinese in 1870 were chiefly in California, there being 49,310, out of the total of 63,254, in that State, showing an increase in ten years of 14,377 Chinese in California. The Indians enumerated are only those in the States, no census being taken of the wandering tribes of the far West. From records at the Indian bureau it appears tnat the seventy-five agencies of the Government controlling these wandering bands govern in the aggregate 142 tribes, numbering 288,716 souls. This is exclusive of the tribes in Alaska, who are estimated at 75,000, and various hostile tribes, so that it is estimated that there are now about 375,000 Indians in the United States. Of the total population above given for the United States in 1870, it is reported that 32,989,437 were native-born and 5,566,466 foreigners.

The Round Lake Sanctificationists have started a movement to build a church in Salt Lake City with the discarded jewelry of the sisters who have attained unto perfection, and need no other ornament. "I found," said a good woman in a prayer-meeting, "that my jewelry was dragging me down to hell; and so I took it off and gave it to my sister."

Ogdensburg, New York (says one of our exchanges), has now in turn been the scene of a religious disturbance, in which the Roman Catholics were the chief actors. A man calling himself Baron de Carmin, and claiming to be an ex-Catholic priest, undertook to give a lecture showing up the evils of Popery, and his denunciations thereof led to his being violently assaulted by Romanists present, and to the breaking-up of the meeting. In fact, the unfortunate lecturer was carried away by the police in a carriage to protect him from the mob. He was advertised to speak again the next day, and did so, the City Council, at a special meeting, voting to give him support, and the mayor and the police seconding their measures heartily. There was great excitement among all classes, and several arrests were made. Free speech is a cherished right in this country; therefore fair speech is peculiarly a bounden duty. Doubtless the right of speech and the right of parade are questions to be more fully considered hereafter than they have been, and we hope to see neither one of them curtailed. At the same time, the fact cannot be disguised that these "ex-Catholic priests," who are constantly turning up with "lectures" on Popery, are not always the wisest, nor even the most trustworthy, of individuals, and that as in many instances notoriety is necessary to their making a living, a bit of a row is rather to be invited than deprecated.

A MIGHTY HUNTRESS.—About twenty miles from the Healing Springs, in the Alleghany mountains, there lives a most remarkable woman. Her name is Morrison, but she is known all through the country as "Miss Jennie Rucker." She is about sixty years of age, has her hair bobbed like a man's, wears a man's hat, and rides a horse astride. Hunting is her means of livelihood, and she kills deer, bear, and other game with the skill of forty years' experience. Not long since she wounded a deer, but before coming up with it another hunter, a man, had gotten to it, and commenced carving it up. The old lady expostulated with no avail, and finally drew a bead on him with a rifle to enforce her "rights." The fellow jumped behind a tree, but left his heel exposed, at which vulnerable spot the old lady fired and hit. She got her deer. She has nine or ten children, and is said to treat all travellers hospitably who stop at her cabin.

By a recent act in the New Hampshire Legislature, a system is provided "to compel children to attend school." Every parent or guardian of a child between eight and fourteen years of age,

must send him to some public school within two miles of his residence for twelve weeks in each year. Six weeks at least of such schooling must be consecutive. The parent or guardian is relieved from sending such child to public school in case he is instructed for the time mentioned at home or in some private school in the branches taught in the public schools or in more advanced studies. The penalty for violation of this law is ten dollars for the first offence, and twenty dollars for the second and every subsequent offence. The local school board, on notice from any taxpayer of any violation of the law, must institute suit, under penalty of twenty dollars for each neglect to enforce the law.

Mr. Noyes, a missionary of the American Board in India, thus gives something of the "results" of mission labour in his field:—"Though the progress from year to year has seemed small, the aggregate for the past seventeen years is encouraging; 12 congregations of 1854 having increased to 24, and the membership from 780 to 1,500. Within this period 20 new church edifices have been erected, either to replace those which were too small or dilapidated, or for new congregations. Six have been finished and two others begun during the past year. Most of these buildings are commodious, and present a respectable appearance. Five of them are permanent buildings, with tiled or terraced roofs. On an average, less than one-half of the expense of these buildings has been borne by the mission." He reports the native assistants as increased from 13 to 36—20 catechists and 16 teachers. Many women have learned to read, some becoming graduates of their boarding-school for girls and able to teach others. The number of village schools has quadrupled, and the number of pupils is six times what it was in 1854; and in these schools may be found scholars from the high castes, Brahmins and Mohammedans, as well as Sudras and Pariahs. The schools are breaking caste in pieces.

The polygamy question (says the *Boston Congregationalist*) seems to be on the way toward a final settlement. Mr. William S. Godbe, leader of the Liberal Mormons, is ready to prohibit the contraction of any more plural marriages, but is of the opinion that the repudiation of all wives except the first should not be required. This the *Independent* regards as "exceedingly wise." Anything more "summary" would in many cases "result in hardship and misery." But the Mormon women seem to be themselves preparing for more summary measures. A "first wife" has already brought suit against her husband in the United States Court, charging him with adultery in taking to himself two other and young "wives," and the presiding judge has shown himself ready to entertain the suit, admitting the accused to bail in the sum of 5,000 dols. There can be little doubt as to what the decision will be, and quite as little as to its effect upon the whole system in question. What becomes, in such an event, of Mr. Godbe's proposition? To retain other wives than the first will be adultery, having been so declared by the courts. To us it seems that a short, safe, and just way out of the difficulty is precisely that toward which events seem to be steadily drifting. The repudiation of other wives than the first will be required, but not without some equitable provision for their support, and that also of their innocent children.

ACCIDENTS.

"He jests at scars who never felt a wound." Thus spake one whose knowledge of human character approached the marvellous. We know not what pain really is until we become its victims. We can sympathise with the sufferings of others, but we never dream of ourselves becoming the objects of a like feeling. Yet the liability to accident seems the inevitable contingency of our lot. When we rise in the morning we cannot be certain that we shall retire whole and sound to rest in the evening. By taking every reasonable precaution, we diminish but do not remove the risk. It is said that in this country no less than two millions of people annually suffer from accidents of some kind. Incredible, you will say, but it is said to be based upon accurate data. Of the two million persons thus injured every year, ten thousand are either killed, or die from the direct effects of their accidents. Others are cruelly maimed for life. Very many are for a time prevented from following their customary avocations. Of course, some people, such as railway servants, seafaring men, smiths, builders, and others following similar callings, are more liable to such disasters than is the student, the clergyman, or the barrister; but none are exempt from the contingency. In the metropolis such perils are very great. The police returns show that in the year 1870 as many as 124 persons were run over and killed in the streets of London, and 1,919 were maimed or injured.

In the last five years, 1866-70, 533 persons have been thus killed, and 7,508 maimed or injured. The 2,043 accidents recorded in 1870 occurred in this wise:—440 by being run over by cabs, 102 by omnibuses, 245 by broughams and carriages, 636 by light carts, 158 by heavy carts, 110 by wagons and drays, 257 by vans, 10 by fire-engines, 79 by horses ridden, and 5 by velocipedes. The Commissioner of Police reports, however, that special attention was paid during the year to measures tending to diminish the risk of pedestrians. Constables have been placed at the most crowded crossings, and special pains taken to obtain the names and addresses of offenders. In the case of cabs the number-plate now affixed behind the cab generally suffices for this purpose; but in the case of light carts and wagons no such clue at present exists, and they often entirely escape. Of the 124 persons killed in the streets in 1870, 11 were run over by cabs, 17 by omnibuses, 2 by carriages, 27 by light carts, 24 by heavy carts, 20 by wagons or drays, 19 by vans, 1 by a fire-engine, 2 by horses ridden, and 1 by a velocipede.

As many of these street accidents occur after dusk, it would be desirable that all vehicles should be provided with lights, as in Paris and other continental cities. Could not the police classify the accidents taking place after dark, so that we might be enabled to ascertain the proportion attributable to vehicles not provided with lamps? But there are other fertile sources of calamity. Pieces of orange peel on the pavement have much to answer for, as do stones and other missiles incautiously thrown by children at play. Sometimes a falling ladder, or flower-pot, or the sudden stagger of a drunken man is responsible for the mischief. Some painstaking individual not long ago prepared a list of no less than seven thousand causes of such accidents, and he stated that had not exhausted the number. The unexpectedness of the danger frequently adds to the mischief and suffering occasioned by it, especially in the case of those whose very livelihood depends upon active habits. Several of our leading working-class friendly associations profess to grant assistance to members when disabled from the effects of accident, but we fear that in some cases this can only be done by encroaching upon the provision made against sickness and old age. It needs a special organisation, as in the case of fire and life assurance. A friendly society, not possessed of sufficient funds, might break under the strain of an unusual number of accidents among its members, as in the case of a colliery explosion, or an equally fatal disaster in establishments employing large numbers of work-people. The special organisation to which we have alluded seems to have been supplied by two associations, the Accident Insurance Company and the Railway Passengers Insurance Company. The latter was formed to meet a special risk, as the former was intended for one of a more general nature. The list of claims paid during 1870 by the Accident Insurance Company is an interesting contribution to popular statistics, apart from its more personal characteristic, that of showing the advantages of accident insurance.

The horse accidents predominate, numbering as many as 339, the compensations varying from 1*l.* 1s. 6d. to 500*l.* The next highest number stands to the debit of business accidents, and here are 192 examples of how men pushing their ordinary occupations are liable to the contingency of disablement. The compensations under this head extend from 1*l.* 2s. to 282*l.* 7s. Of accidents at the homes of the assured, we find 162. The compensations in most of these latter cases seem very high. Though they begin with 15s. they end with 850*l.* Street accidents are numerous too, as may be imagined. Indeed, it might well be thought they would have been at the head of the list. There are 118 of these, representing claims from 12s. up to 300*l.* Accidents in the field are not so numerous, being only 54, but in many cases they are severe. Carriage accidents number 30, the highest amount paid being 800*l.* Twenty-two railway accidents brought claims extending from 1*l.* 10s. to 1,000*l.* The remainder of the cases present a varied list of boat and water accidents, accidents through dogs, cats, and insects; from explosions, fire, and firearms; in the gymnasium, in the cricket-field; and various other casualties, realising compensations varying from small amounts up to 300*l.*

The experience of the company shows that a certain definite proportion of the population are subject to the risk of accident, and that in some callings the risk is far higher than in others. Amongst the more dangerous occupations are those of railway servants, such as engine-drivers, guards, firemen, porters, policemen, police inspectors, timekeepers, gatekeepers, pointsmen, and platelayers, &c., &c. Next in point of peril for casualties are butchers, cab-drivers, captains and engineers on river steamboats, engineers, glassblowers, jailors, labourers on wharves or in warehouses, livery-stable keepers, mast, oar, and block makers, millwrights, policemen, ship carpenters and smiths, soda-water manufacturers (working), sugar-refinery workmen, telegraph-builders and repairers. In respect to all of these special and higher rates of insurance are demanded. But a list of the claims paid by the company shows that no class is really exempt. Among the persons injured are set down farmers, grocers, surgeons, bakers, schoolmasters, solicitors, merchants, rate-collectors, printers, drapers, land-agents, clerks, hotel-keepers, dentists, cooks, chemists, bank clerks, civil engineers, and the like; scarcely a trade or profession being unrepresented.

Many accidents of a comparatively slight character become dangerous by inattention or want of proper management or knowledge. It is the period between the occurrence of an accident and the arrival of medical assistance that the real mischief is done. Very few people know how to act in such an emergency. In the case of people rescued from drowning this want of knowledge on the part of the rescuers is often painfully apparent. Many a life has been sacrificed to the injudicious restorative treatment resorted to by would-be preservers. Such mistakes frequently entail a heavy cost upon the Accident Insurance Company, to which the saving of a single life signifies a corresponding saving of its funds. The true interest of the company lies in reducing both the number and fatal character of accidents in general; thus affording a curious illustration of the way in which private enterprise occasionally promotes the interests of the community. With the view of affording as much information as possible as to the proper treatment of accidents, the company have induced Mr. Alfred Smee, surgeon to the Bank of England, to compile a little pamphlet, full of the necessary details. A more useful book we have seldom met with. It describes nearly sixty kinds of injury, the instructions being accompanied with illustrative wood-cuts. Were the information so tersely conveyed by Mr. Smee more generally diffused, the saving of life and diminution of suffering might be enormous. Accidents are not always preventible, but many of their ill effects are. This is what everyone ought to know. There is no heroism in despising simple remedies. Nor is there any wisdom in scorning to make proper provision against accident. The very uncertainty as to whether we may or may not become the victims of unforeseen casualties ought to render us more desirous of guarding against their possible effects. It is considered prudent to insure against the danger of fire, to make provision in case of death; why should we not be equally careful with respect to the possibility of accident?

Literature, Science, and Art.

Mr. Froude has relinquished the editorship of *Fraser's Magazine*, and his place will be filled by Dr. Dasent.—*Athenæum.*

The actual sale of "The Battle of Dorking," in pamphlet form, and exclusive of the seven editions of *Blackwood's Magazine* containing it, has been up to the present time just over 110,000.

Messrs. R. Bentley and Son are preparing for publication, among other important works, the unpublished "Memoirs of De Lamartine," translated by Lady Herbert; the "History of the House of Condé," by H.R.H. the Duc d'Aumale, translated under the sanction of H.R.H. by the Rev. R. Brown-Borthwick; the "Life of Holbein," by Professor Wolfgang, with a profusion of pictorial illustrations; a second and concluding "Series of Miss Mitford's Letters," edited, with an introductory memoir, by Mr. Chorley.

Professor Agassiz is about setting out from Boston on a deep-sea survey of the oceans bordering America. He has at his orders a new United States coast-survey steamer fitted for the purpose. She will carry a dredging apparatus capable of working at a depth of 3,000 fathoms, and the professor intends making a zigzag course between the eastern coast of America and the deepest part of the Atlantic as far as Cape Horn, and so up the western coast to San Francisco, dredging all the way. He anticipates a new revelation of the condition of animal life from those unknown depths. Another item of scientific interest from America is the photographing of the fixed stars by Mr. Rutherford, of New York, already noted for his photographs of the moon. He is engaged in photographing those notable groups of stars sufficiently compact to come on the field of the astronomical camera, and the result of his labour is such that the relative distances of the stars from each other are now measured with one-tenth of the error which obtained in previous measurements.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

AN EXPEDITION TO JERUSALEM.—The German Professor Curtius is about to make an archæological expedition to Asia Minor. He will be assisted by an officer of high rank in the Engineers, and as it is proposed to explore some parts of the coast which are seldom visited, the German Government will lend a gunboat for the occasion. Professor Adler will accompany the expedition as architect. He has been commissioned to draw up the plans for the restoration of the Church of the Knights of St. John at Jerusalem, which the Sultan presented to the King of Prussia two years ago. Professor Curtius will commence his investigations at the plain of Troy. He does not propose to extend them beyond two months.

REPORTING BY MACHINERY.—The tachytypograph, or rapid type-writer, is an invention which is being patented by Mr. J. S. Davies, of Haverfordwest, and consists of a machine for obtaining verbatim reports of speeches, debates, sermons, &c., in the ordinary English characters. It will be generally applicable to all purposes where rapid writing or printing is desired, and is intended particularly to supersede shorthand for reporting purposes; it is manipulated by means of an ordinary keyboard, and can be made of a convenient size for portability and use in public assemblies. One alphabet of type is used, one type or character is affixed in a socket at one end of each twenty-six levers. These "type-levers" are actuated by a series of "key-levers." When any "key" is depressed, the corresponding type-lever brings down and imprints its type or character on a roll of paper which passes directly over the "printing point," and thus a legible impression is produced on the paper, either by an endless band of carbonised or transfer paper passing round both wheels outside the paper and over it at the "printing-points," or a strip of silk stretched directly above the "printing-point," at a distance of ¼in. above the paper, and suspended on two rollers saturated with suitable ink, and receiving motion from the paper-carrying apparatus. —*Mechanics' Magazine.*

A memorial monument has been erected in New South Wales, to the memory of Captain Cook, at the supposed place at which he landed from the Endeavour in April, 1770.

Literature.

*MASSON'S MILTON.**

Second Notice.

Mr. Masson deserves special praise for the extreme pains which he has taken to indicate the relations of the different Church parties in the period immediately succeeding the overthrow of Laud. Were his book a mere biography of the poet, it might reasonably be objected that he had given the subject a disproportionate space; but his own statement of the design and scope of the work supplies a sufficient answer to such an objection, which, indeed, is less admissible here than in some other parts of the narrative. For in the controversy on Church principles, that which raged so fiercely in the later months of 1640 and the following year, Milton played a principal part; in connection with it he first made his power felt in political life, and the pamphlets which he contributed to it are about the only interesting and valuable relics of the discussion which we care to preserve. The marvellous and rapid success of the Puritan party at the commencement of the Long Parliament produced the result which always follows such triumphs—a division of feeling among the conquerors. Those who were agreed in their opposition to Laud were anything but agreed as to the character which the Church of England ought henceforth to assume. All were opposed to every form of Popery, whether it had its head at Rome or at Lambeth, and therefore all could unite in the work of destruction; but, when they had got rid of Laudism, with its tyranny, its superstition, and its imitation of Romish practices, the real difficulty of the case began. A party, from whom better things might have been expected, are labouring at present to awaken a more favourable sentiment in relation to Laud, and the *Saturday Review* has recently gone so far as to contend that the features of his policy which excited the opposition of the Puritans of his own time ought to commend him to the sympathy and approval of the Liberals of our own day. Laud was an opponent of Calvinistic doctrine, and a "protector of the "social liberty of Englishmen in every direction "in which the Puritans were striving to restrict "their liberty," and therefore it is suggested that the verdict of history upon him should be very different from that which all writers of Liberal principles have pronounced. If this be true, it is singular that the mistake should have been so universal not only in after times, but in Laud's own day. If, as the writer tells us, the "*great aims of Archbishop Laud are at this* "*day the aims of every Liberal and tolerant* "*Englishman who calls himself a Christian,* "*although he hopes to secure these aims by better* "*and more consistent means than the great pre-*"*late used,*" it is, to say the least, remarkable that the Archbishop's contemporaries were so blind to the liberality and grandeur of his aims. For it was not Puritans alone who opposed Laud; and nothing can be more unjust and misleading than the endeavour to create a feeling in favour of Laud out of dislike to the Calvinistic doctrine, or the ascetic theories of Christian life attributed to the Puritans. It would take much more space than is at our disposal to examine how far these reproaches against Puritanism are justified by fact. What we urge here, however, is only that the choice was not between Laud and the Puritans, unless, indeed, the term be employed in a very general sense, but that the party opposed to the Archbishop included a large number of men, among them Falkland, Colepepper, and Lord Digby, who had no sympathy with Puritanism, and whose dislike of Laud arose from the conviction that his schemes were incompatible with the maintenance of English liberty.

When, however, Laud's power was overthrown, the divergence of view in the party which had secured the victory of religious and political liberty, at once became apparent. The "Root-and-Branch" party meant not only to destroy Laudism, but to subvert Episcopacy also, and even at this early date (1640) Mr. Masson considers that these Radicals, most of whom desired the establishment of the Presbyterian system, but among whom also were "seeds of theories which were in the end to de-"clare Presbyterianism insufficient, and to "quarrel with it," were in a majority. Opposed to them, however, were the great body of the gentry, and of course, almost the whole of the clergy and the advocates of Episcopacy were not slow to do battle in its behalf. Indeed, those who had been most alive to its abuses and most anxious to put some restrictions on the power both of the bishops and the clergy, were among the foremost to resist all proposals that were directed to the overthrow of the system itself. They had shown themselves determined to prevent bishops from becoming popes, they were now equally resolved to save them from being degraded into mere Presbyters. Hence, when the London petition of the Root-and-Branch party and the pamphlets which were continually being published in its support indicated the danger to which Episcopacy was exposed, Bishop Hall was the first to come to the front as its defender, and subsequently was able to induce good Archbishop Usher, whose views were so moderate as to offend all strong Prelatists, to join him in the defence. It was the "Humble Remonstrance" of the first-named prelate which called forth the celebrated pamplet of "Smectymnuus," which was remarkable, not so much for any original power or novelty of argument, as for the excitement it produced, the controversy which was waged around it, and especially for the fact that it was the means of calling forth some of the most remarkable of Milton's prose writings. The authors—Stephen Marshall, Edmund Calamy, Thomas Young, Matthew Newcomen, and William Spurstow, were among the leaders of the Root-and-Branch party, and their strange *nom de guerre*, we need hardly say, was obtained by the union of their several initials. The satirist Cleveland says of it—

"Smectymnuus! The goblin makes me start;
I' the name of Rabbi Abraham, what art?"

"But," as Mr. Masson tells us, "Cleveland, it "is pretty clear, knew all about it, for a good "part of his poem consists of all sorts of jokes "on the birth of such a monstrosity as the "quintuple organism of the wits of five Puritan "parsons rolled into one. He compares it to some "case like that of the Siamese twins of a later "day, which had recently been imported from "Italy, and exhibited at fairs." But while the oddity of the name thus afforded opportunity for satire, we think there can be little doubt that it commanded an amount of attention which would not have been accorded to the pamphlet on the ground of its intrinsic merit. It is, Mr. Masson says, a "rather heavy and "leathery performance," but at the same time he admits that it has a clearness of reasoning to which Bishop Hall, in his later tracts at all events, cannot pretend. Of Milton's connection with it and its authors we have the following account:—

"We have seen what were the effects upon Milton's mind, in his house in Aldersgate-street, of the sudden prospect of a new era of liberty, and especially of ecclesiastical liberty, for England. He had been watching, with unusual interest, the successive steps of the Church question in Parliament, from the presentation in December, 1640, of that Root-and-Branch petition of the Londoners which he himself may have signed, on to that crisis of May—July, 1641, at which we have now arrived. He had been watching these steps in the spirit of a man who was himself of Root-and-Branch opinions to the very uttermost bounds known. In the same spirit he had been watching the literature of the question. He had been reading, with all the attention of an adverse critic, Hall's pamphlets, Usher's pamphlets and those that bore Usher's name, the published speeches of Digby and Falkland, and Hacket's famous defence of cathedral establishments. Nor, from his antecedents, was he one whose sympathies with the Root-and-Branch party were likely to remain unknown. In any meeting of the Root-and-Branch leaders in London where they might chance to be reckoning up their available adherents, the name of Mr. John Milton was pretty sure to be mentioned. The matter is not left to conjecture. The chief of the Smectymnuans, as we have seen, was Thomas Young, vicar of Stowmarket in Suffolk, who, some twenty years before, had been Milton's first domestic preceptor. It must have been by some presentiment that, in relating the story of Milton's boyhood and youth, we were attracted so particularly by the figure of this long-forgotten Scottish immigrant into England. We dug him, it may be remembered, out of his birthplace of Luncarty, in Perthshire; we followed him to the University of St. Andrews; we traced him thence to London, to be employed by Puritan ministers as their occasional assistant, and by the scrivener of Bread-street as a tutor for his son; and we quoted, finally, Milton's expressions of strong regard for him in poems and letters after he and Young had been separated. Only vaguely did we know then that pupil and tutor were again to come together, in the pupil's manhood, so near to the centre of the politics of England. But such is the fact. Not only is there proof that Young was the chief of the Smectymnuans; there is also something like proof, under Milton's own hand, presently to be cited, that Milton himself had a hand in the Smectymnuus pamphlet. He contributed, as I calculate, rough notes or material for about twenty of its pages."

But Milton was not to be a mere auxiliary in the anti-episcopal warfare. In five successive pamphlets he undertook the defence of the position of the "Root-and-Branch party," and if he had done nothing else would by them have secured for himself no mean place in English literature. He has suffered the fault which has overtaken so many who have excelled in two departments of literature. Just as the success of Sir Walter Scott, as a novelist, has indirectly detracted from his fame as a poet, so the transcendent glory of Milton, as a poet, has obscured the merit of his prose writings. There is, undoubtedly, in them much that is calculated to repel the ordinary reader. They deal largely with points raised in the course of the controversies of the time, but which have ceased to interest us now, they are tainted with the vice of the times, the strong tendency to personalty, they are fierce and vituperative, and sometimes even coarse. But these faults are only slight detractions from their great merits, their clear enunciation and vigorous defence of great principles, their manly and generous sentiments, their passionate love of liberty, their masculine English, the marvellous outbursts of eloquence which are interspersed through them. Mr. Masson has done those which pass under review in the present volume full justice. He has not only analysed their contents, but he has given a collection of some of their more striking passages, which at least may enable the reader to perceive what a rich vein of wisdom is to be found in them. We regret we cannot go at greater length into the contents of the volume. We must, however, find room for a brief reference to Milton's married life. The wooing our author thinks was hurried, the engagement short, and the home-coming not perfectly satisfactory. The bridegroom was twice the age of the bride, and it only too soon became apparent that they were not perfectly suited:—

"On Milton's part, as we shall see soon enough, there was a dawning perception, after the first blindness of the honeymoon, that his young wife was stupid; but, on her part, there was more. There was fright, there was distaste, there was a sense of solitude. To the poor young thing there had come what comes not unfrequently to very young brides, taken suddenly from all the accustomed cheerfulness of a numerous and hospitable home, and committed to the sole society of a comparative stranger. There had come a terror of her new situation, a feeling of home-sickness, a longing to be back with Mamma. From the moment, indeed, of the departure of her brothers and sisters back to Forest-hill, her heart had gone with them. Possibly Milton's ways were not so considerate as they ought to have been. Aubrey's account of the matter is that the young wife, having been 'brought up and lived where there was a great deal of company and merriment, dancing, &c.,' 'when she came to live with her husband, found it very solitary: no company came to her; oftentimes heard his nephews beaten and cry:' so that the life 'was irksome to her.' Aubrey was not always accurate in his gossip, and that item of the nephews being beaten and crying looks very like the kind of item his own fancy would invent. Phillips, at all events, who was one of the nephews, has no such item in *his* account. Substantially, however, it agrees with Aubrey's. 'After having been used to a great house, and much company and joviality,' the life with Milton in Aldersgate-street was too 'philosophical' for her: *i.e.*, Milton had relapsed into his books, studies, and contemplations, and the teaching of his nephews, and the poor girl was left too much to her own thoughts and the one delight of correspondence with home. The consequence soon showed itself. 'By that time she had for a month or thereabout led a philosophical life,' says Phillips, 'her friends, possibly incited by her own desire, made earnest suit, by letter, to have her company the remaining part of the summer.' Milton may have been surprised at the request, and was doubtless chagrined. To go back to her father's house immediately after the honeymoon! What would people think? With whatever grace, however, he did give his consent; and some time in July, 1643, if Phillips's date is correct, the young wife went back on a visit to Forest-hill. The distinct understanding was that she should return at Michaelmas (Sept. 29) or thereabouts.

"Phillips informs us that it was precisely at the time of this absence of Milton's wife on a visit to her relatives that Milton's father came from Reading to reside with him. Nay, it was at the same time, according to the same authority (and there could not be a better for the fact), that there first came to reside with Milton a few pupils in addition to his two nephews. They were not pupils advertised for in the ordinary way, Phillips carefully explains, but the sons of intimate friends, received by way of favour. It may have been an excuse for the absence of the wife that she had but gone out of the way till arrangements were made in the house for these new comers. At all events, in her absence, the house was sufficiently busy. 'The studies,' says Phillips, 'went on with so much the more vigour as there were more hands and heads employed; the old gentleman living wholly retired to his rest and devotion, without the least trouble imaginable.' With which picture of the house in Aldersgate-street in or about July, 1643, let us leave Milton in it for the present, waiting for the return of his wife at Michaelmas!

And here we wait for the closing volume of Mr. Masson's work, only expressing once more our sense of the eminent service he is rendering in giving us this finished picture of one of the grandest names in our literature.

*ROBY'S LATIN GRAMMAR.**

We heard a short time ago of a minister, who, in arguing against the proposed Revision of the Authorised Version of the Bible, told his people that the scholarship of three hundred years ago was superior to the scholarship of to-day. To such a man, or to those imbued with his sentiments, and in fact to all but those who have some knowledge of the marvellous advances our classical scholars have made of late years, this new Latin Grammar of Mr. Roby's must come as a kind of revelation. It

* *The Life of John Milton.* By D. MASSON, M.A., LL.D. Vols. I. and II. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

* *A Grammar of the Latin Language, from Plautus to Suetonius,* by H. J. ROBY, M.A. Part I. (London and New York: Macmillan and Co.)

would not be fair to compare it with the books out of which we endeavoured to learn the principles of the language in our early days, for it aspires to fulfil a much nobler and more useful function. The author tells us he has "not attempted to "twist the natural arrangement of the facts so "as to make it suitable for persons who are "first learning the language and cannot be "trusted to find their own way"—in other words, he has not prepared an elementary work in which scientific considerations are ignored in order to secure an arrangement helpful to the pupil, but a book which shall develope all the facts which concern the *form* of the language arranged in their natural order. It is, in fact, intended for the advanced student rather than for the mere beginner, but, at the same time, it is sure to become the model on which elementary grammars of the future will be constructed. It is not too much to say that Mr. Roby has here produced a grammar that need not fear comparison with the most learned works of the greatest German grammarians, and won for himself a foremost place in that distinguished band who have redeemed our English scholarship from the discredit which thirty years ago rested upon it. Then for a scientific discussion of philological questions, for profound and exhaustive criticisms, or for superior editions of classical authors we are compelled to look to Germany, whose scholars were credited with an amount of painstaking and accuracy not to be found amongst ourselves. We are no longer open to such reproach, and this work of Roby's adds another to the many examples we have had of late of the diligence and success with which classical studies are at present prosecuted at our universities.

The "General observations" which are prefixed to this first part of the Grammar, at once mark out its scope and justify its method. It is not a Universal Grammar illustrated from Latin, nor the Latin section of a comparative Grammar of the Indo-European languages, nor a grammar of the group of Italian dialects, of which Latin is one, "but simply a grammar of "the Latin language, which has certain pe- "culiarities that require a mode of treatment "which may or may not be suitable in relation "to other languages." "Each language" (says Mr. Roby, "has its own individuality, and this "is distorted or disguised by being subjected to "a set of general categories, even though "guaranteed by comparative philology." It is because, while not insensible to the knowledge to be gained by the comparison of phenomena in different languages, he has concentrated his strength on the most minute investigation of his own special subject, and has restricted himself to an examination of the phenomena of the Latin that Mr. Roby has achieved so complete a success. It is to the Latin of the classical period, extending from Plautus to Suetonius, that he has confined himself, considering that with the end of the silver age, which closes with Tacitus and Suetonius, the era of classical literature closes. "It is intolerable" (he says), "to find frequently given in modern grammars, "without a word of warning, forms and words "which owe their existence to Apuleius and "Tertullian—imaginative antiquarian Africans, "far removed indeed from insignificance, and "not at all wanting in interest, but certainly "not representative of the ordinary or normal "language of the Romans." The work is divided into four parts—Sounds, Inflexions, Word-formation, and Syntax—the first three only being included in the present volume. Everywhere we have innovations which will startle conservative teachers, but the result, we are satisfied, will be greater accuracy, and in many cases, as for example in the reduction of the declensions of nouns from five to two, greater simplicity. For Priscian and the old grammarians Mr. Roby has little respect, holding that "if canons of grammar are to be laid "down, I prefer Madwig to any Roman what- "ever, and believe Ritsch and Mommsen know "a great deal more about the Duellian inscrip- "tion than Quintillian did." We feel that special commendation is due to the very able discussion on the proper mode of pronouncing Latin, and to what is perhaps the most valuable part of the volume, the very complete section on "Word-formation." This is not only incomparably the best Latin Grammar we have, but one without which no student's apparatus can be complete.

BRIEF NOTICES.

A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans. By the Rev. W. A. O'CONNOR, B.A., Author of "Faith and "Works," &c. (Longman and Co.). Mr. O'Connor better describes this little work in his preface than on the title-page. It is "an analysis of St. Paul's argument "in his Epistle to the Romans." It is not strictly speaking a commentary at all, but rather a careful restating in a more easily intelligible form of St. Paul's arguments on justification by faith and election Where it is necessary to explain or elucidate the course of the argument, Mr. O'Connor undertakes to do so, and his connecting comment is intelligent and lucid, but for the most part Paul, and not the author, is speaking to us. The book is divided into four chapters, treating successively of "Justification," "Life," "Perfection," and "Election." The following quotation will indicate the author's method and style. The subject of "Justification" is connected with the portion of the epistle commencing with the 18th verse of the 1st chapter, and ending with the 24th of the 4th chapter :—

"The Apostle having stated his proposition that salvation by faith is offered to all men through the Gospel, proceeds to prove his case by showing that the first step in the process of salvation, namely justification or reconciliation to God, the entrance into a state of conscious favour with God from one of alienation, is effected through faith, and is therefore open to all men." . . .

"Man is guilty before God, and is crushed down by the burden of his guilt and by his inability to recover himself, and it is therefore necessary that he should feel that God regards him as not being guilty, or as being justified, and that he should know the means whereby God has provided that he should so consider him, before the work of his deliverance from evil and establishment in good can be fairly initiated. . . . The anger of God, the Apostle proceeds to show as the basis of his argument, is revealed against all men who, possessing the truth, do violence to it by their practical injustice. But all men know the truth; for they have either a revealed law, as the Jews, or a natural law, as Jews and Gentiles alike. Therefore the anger of God is declared against injustice in whomsoever it may be found, because no man can plead ignorance against the demands of justice. All men being thus responsible, it only remains to show that they have all transgressed in order to prove that they are all equally guilty. The Apostle first describes the state of the world at large; not the condition of the Gentiles only, but that of Gentiles and Jews when tried by the requirements of natural religion, and shows that in this relation no man has any right to claim superiority over another. . . . All have transgressed, and all are guilty; and therefore, the Apostle argues, any man, whoever he may be, or whatever additional relation he may stand in to God because of a further revelation given to him, who judges his brother, is inexcusable in so doing, because he who assumes the office of judge does himself the very things which he condemns. . . . [The Jew] having been thus convicted of violating the moral law of the natural conscience, and so far silenced in his attempts to assert a pre-eminence over the other nations of the world, he is next tested by his own peculiar code. . . . He is reminded that the distinguishing rite of his people will be of no avail to him unless he keeps the law of Moses; and that if he fails to keep that law, the condition of the uncircumcised Gentile who does keep the law of his natural conscience is better than his."

We cannot follow Mr. O'Connor through the chapters following the one from which these extracts have been made. It will be seen, however, that the continuity of the argument is not broken by the consideration of "Life" as the theme of the next chapter. Thus he begins :—

"St. Paul, in passing from justification by faith as an argument to prove that the Gospel is to be preached equally to Jew and Gentile, ascends by the natural connection of his subject to a higher region of Christian privilege, where he finds both a confirmation of his first proof and a fresh demonstration of his general conclusion. He analyses the work of Christ, and refers two of its component processes to their respective places in the achievement of human salvation. Man is justified and reconciled to God by identifying himself through faith with the death of Christ, and being reconciled and at peace with God, he enters into the true and eternal life of holiness by identifying himself through faith with the resurrection life of Christ. This is the power of the resurrection, and thus Christ was appointed Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead."

The whole epistle is analysed in this manner, and the result is a scholarly and most readable book.

Thoughts and Sketches in Verse. By C. P. S. (London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer.) The earnest religious purpose that breathes through this book will be evident to all. Familiarity with Scripture, and readiness in its application according to the approved "evangelical" fashion, will also appear to many great recommendations of the volume. But the thought is common-place, and the verse is feeble. The verses we quote are a very favourable specimen of the author's work. Such imagery and melody as this are not abundant in the book.

"ON A FRIEND WHO DIED AT A DISTANCE FROM HOME.

"She sleeps beneath the green tree's shade,
Her grassy cover o'er her laid;
She feels no pain within her breast,
For all with her is quiet rest!

The wind may howl with hollow moan,
And whistle o'er her mansion lone,
While she, secure from earthly fear,
Its loudest blasts will never hear.

The summer sun its light will shed
Upon her dark and lowly bed,
But never will dispel the gloom
Which hovers o'er that earthy room!

And on it like a mourning pale
Will evening's darker shadows fall,
And twilight soft will seem to weep
The lonely one's unbroken sleep!

And oft the low night-breeze will sigh,
While with her silent train on high
The moon will walk with silver crown,
And the pale stars will twinkle down."

The poem, of which these are the opening verses, does not continue at this level of merit; the fatal facility of trite moralising is too much for the author..

The Seven Weeks' War: its Antecedents and its Incidents. By H. M. HOZIER, F.C.S. Second Edition. (Macmillan and Co.) The "Seven Weeks' War" has exercised so powerful an influence on the political condition of Europe, and is so certain to be regarded as a crisis in history, that an intelligent and faithful narrative of its events is of immense value, and such Captain Hozier's work unquestionably is. The letters on which it is based attracted considerable attention when they first appeared in the *Times*, for they were manifestly not the off-hand productions of a dashing correspondent who, if he can write an article which will produce a sensation at the time, is not particularly anxious as to its permanent reputation, but the account of one who was a careful observer and at the same time was able to form a sound judgment on the manœuvres he described. They were afterwards revised and rewritten and published as a separate work, which has been so successful that we have it now in this new and cheaper edition. The events which have occurred subsequently may in one sense have thrown those of the Austro-Prussian war into the shade, but, on the other hand, they have invested them with great significance, for the story of that conflict is really a key to a right understanding of the more eventful one to which it was the prelude. To all who desire to have a sound knowledge of continental affairs, and especially of the aims and powers of Germany, we recommend a perusal of this most trustworthy and instructive volume.

Hymns and Songs of Pilgrim Life; or, Steps to the Throne. By the Rev. JAMES GABB, B.A., Rector of Bulmer. (London: James Nisbet and Co.) There is something very pleasant in many of these verses of Mr. Gabb's. Not at all profound in feeling or strikingly original in conception, many of them are touching, and all are simple and true. The melody, too, is easy, and the expression occasionally felicitous. Mr. Gabb's style of thinking and utterance is entirely free from affectation and pretentiousness. The following sonnet, on "A "Murmuring Shell," is a specimen of his versification. The reader will probably be reminded in its earlier part of Wordsworth's "curious child applying to his ear the "convolutions of a smooth-lipp'd shell," but the turn of the sonnet is quite distinct, and its central thought a true one.

"I never see thee, convoluted shell,
Bright with the pearly hues that gild the sky
When first the morning glimmers, but I fly
On wings of Fancy, and a moment dwell
In tropic seas, where, in some quiet dell
Of briny ocean, far beneath the eye
Of roving mariner, thou didst defy
The sudden storms that o'er its surface swell!
But in those deeps, though mankind never may,
Nor mighty tempests, wreck the summer calm,
Incessant change holds his accustomed sway,
And in thy empty cells now rings a psalm
Whose low, soft murmur ever seems to say,
'All things that live, live but to pass away!'"

Cameos from English History: the Wars in France. By the author of the "Heir of Redclyffe." Second Series. (Macmillan and Co.) We have already noticed the first series of these charming stories from our English annals, and now that a second volume is before us we need hardly do more than renew the strong commendation which we then expressed. Miss Yonge has had a rich field from which to collect materials, and she has used it to good purpose. The stories of Artevelde, the butcher of Ghent, of the Siege of Calais with its heroic incidents, of Du Guesclin and his chivalrous deeds, of the early days of Prince Hal and his subsequent victories at Agincourt, and of Joan of Arc, the "Avenger of France," are among those which are retold by our authoress in her own exquisite style. We know no book more likely to give our children a true idea of the interest belonging to our English history and to inspire them with a desire for its more careful study.

Manual of Modern Geography. By the Rev. A. MACKAY, LL.D., F.R.G.S. New Edition. (London: Blackwood and Sons.) A more complete compendium of all information relating to its special subject than Dr. Mackay's manual no teacher could desire. Our author has a large conception of what is essential to a proper teaching of geography, but, extensive as the design which he has formed is, he has worked it out with complete success. In this second edition he has endeavoured to bring his work up to the most recent political changes, but the extraordinary events of the last year have left him behind. In all, however, except the changes arising out of the last war, he is fully abreast both of the history and science of the times. Alike in ingenuity and skill of arrangement, in its wonderful array of facts, in its comprehensiveness and accuracy, and in its remarkable power of condensation, this appears to us the best geographical work of the day.

Cromwell. A Drama. By WILLIAM DUCKWORTH, jun. (London: William Freeman.) Very wretched prose broken up into lines beginning with capital letters; lines compared with which Mr. Tupper's "Pro- "verbial Philosophy" is exquisite music and perfect rhythm. It is wonderful that a man who reveres Cromwell and the Ironsides should make them twaddle as Mr. Duckworth does; equally wonderful that a man who has read Milton should suppose this to be blank verse.

THE MAGAZINES.

Fraser has at least three articles of a superior order, marked by careful thought and containing matter for serious consideration. The first, on the future of

"University Reform," by Leslie Stephen, indicates some of the immediate consequences of the abolition of tests, and points out the direction in which reformers, victorious at last in the long struggle for freedom, should next employ their efforts. One barrier to the usefulness of these great seats of learning has been removed, but there are others which still remain, and not the least arises out of the relation in which the Colleges stand to the University. Mr. Stephen's proposals are not likely to be adopted yet, but he deserves credit for his thorough mastery of the subject, for the boldness and independence of his views, and for the manliness with which he here advocates them. The paper on the "Preservation of Commons", is a most valuable contribution to a right understanding of the land question. Its statements as to the mode in which the common lands have been appropriated to private uses are perfectly astounding, but they are sustained by proof which is incontrovertible. Mr. Jardine Smith treats the subject of the "Imperial Connection from an "Australian Colonist's Point of View," and advocates the idea of an Imperial confederation with great ability.

Blackwood is *in excelsis* this month; jubilant over the faults of the Ministry, and confident of their speedy downfall. If one-half of the charges the Tory organ brings against Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues were true, some member of the House of Commons ought immediately to impeach them. We never read articles such as these before us, on whatever side they may be written, without regret that political controversy should be degraded by such wild exaggeration and utter want of candour. Happily, *Blackwood* has papers of another class. The second part of the "Maid of Sver" confirms the promise of the first, and warrants the expectation that this will be a tale of high order. The "Secret "History of the Loire Campaign," from the French side, is by one who is conversant with the facts, and has indeed before him the proofs of two forthcoming works—one from General Chanzy and the other from M. de Freycinet—and who from them throws a good deal of new light on the French movements.

In *Saint Paul's* we have an article on the "Miseries "of War," being a series of notes from Sedan and Bazeilles, by the authoress of "Stone Edge," written in her own graphic and touching style, which is very timely, and may do something to moderate that war fever which the alarmists have done their best to create. Miss Macquoid gives us a pleasant story; Mr. Proctor one of his instructive astronomical papers on "Comets and Comets Tails"; and the author of "Dorothy Fox" a charming sketch of the "Land of "the Conqueror."

The *Cornhill* has a sad and touching story of the war, entitled "Fleur de Lys," whose tragic ending is only in too strict keeping with the realities of such conflicts. Mr. Thornton discusses the subject of "Tech-"nical Education in England" with considerable ability, and the writer of the interesting series entitled "Hours in a Library," gives us some wise and suggestive "words about Sir Walter Scott."

The articles in the *Gentleman's Magazine* with which we are most pleased are Mr. Cowden Clarke's sketch of "Swift," and Mr. R. H. Horne's notices of "Bygone "Celebrities." They belong to two series of papers, by which the pages of this magazine are enriched.

The *Popular Science Review*. July, 1871. There is considerable variety, and a good deal of popularly interesting matter in this quarter's Review. "The "Structure of Rock Masses" is further treated by David Forbes, F.R.S., "Foliation and Striation" being the subjects here treated. Mr. Boyd Dawkins gives a good paper on "British Bears and Wolves," and Mr. Cooke an interesting one on "The Lotos of the "Ancients." An article on Greenland by Mr. Pengelly is a brief but full sketch of the physical geography of the island; and then follow a paper on "Jupiter in 1870-71," and one on the "International "Exhibition at South Kensington." Some of the longer "Reviews" of books are remarkable for the dogmatism of the writer, and for the inability for philosophical reasoning which they display. With a greater width of information and thought there would be less assumption.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. MORTIMER.—The Rev. George Ferris Whidborne Mortimer, D.D., late head master of the City of London School, died on Thursday last at Rose-hill, Hampton, in the 67th year of his age. He was in early life a Michel's Scholar at Queen's College, Oxford, where he took his Bachelor's degree in Michaelmas Term, 1826, obtaining a first-class in the school of *Literæ Humaniores*. He proceeded M.A. in 1829, and for many years held the head mastership of the City of London School, which he raised from a very low ebb to several hundred boys, being warmly seconded in his labours by the Corporation of London, and especially by Aldermen Hale and Salomons. He retired about six or seven years ago, when he was succeeded by the present head master, the Rev. Edwin A. Abbott. Dr. Mortimer was much beloved by his old pupils, and to the very last used to make a point of being present at the distribution of prizes in the school theatre, where he was sure of a warm and hearty welcome. He was nominated in 1864 to a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral, which he held till his death.

Crimes and Casualties.

The inquiry into the Brighton poisoning case was concluded on Friday, and the magistrates committed Miss Christiana Edmunds for trial upon four charges, viz., for the wilful murder of the little boy Parker, and the attempt to murder Mrs. Beard, Mrs. Boys, and Mr. Garrett. Four other charges of administering poison to children with intent to do them grievous bodily harm, as to which some evidence was given, were abandoned by the prosecution.

A little girl nine years of age, the daughter of Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P. for Falmouth, has, according to the verdict of a coroner's jury, been poisoned by the application to her head and neck of a very strong preparation of bi-chloride of mercury.

A young lady named Rockstraw, about twenty-two years of age, who had been residing with her uncle at Elms House, Babbicombe, hired a boat on Saturday evening, and rowed out in the bay, as was her custom. About two hours afterwards the boat was found near the beach at Watcombe, with one oar in it, and the other floating alongside the boat. Further out in the bay was found the young lady's hat.

By an explosion of fire-damp which took place at Messrs. Pearson and Knowles's, Moss Pitts, Ince, near Wigan, on Thursday morning, sixty-nine lives have been sacrificed. As to the cause of the explosion there is not even a conjecture. Thirty-three wives have been made widows, and eighty-six children fatherless. The immediate wants of the bereaved have been supplied by the proprietors of the colliery. The last of the three men brought up alive by the exploring party who descended into the pit after the explosion, a week ago, died on Tuesday.

A few days since Mr. Edward Lamb, a well-known Yorkshire farmer, near Malton, swallowed a wasp while taking a drink. The wasp stung him in the throat, which swelled up and caused death before a medical man could arrive.

Miscellaneous.

Dr. Archer, a homœopathist, has been elected a medical officer to the Southampton Workhouse by the guardians of the poor in that town.

The foot-and-mouth disease is frightfully prevalent in Norfolk just now. No less than 1,673 cases were reported in the county during the past week.

On Wednesday last a tramway was opened between Blackfriars-bridge and Greenwich. The cars will run each way every ten minutes.

A number of persons in Listowel (Kerry) have withdrawn their children from the National School of that place in consequence of a silly rumour that all pupils of national schools were, by order of the Government, to be branded "V.R."

The Rev. L. H. Byrnes, the respected minister of Pembroke Chapel, Clifton, has made a successful ascent of Mont Blanc, the "Monarch of Mountains," on the 26th Aug., being the fifth ascent from Chamounix achieved during the present season, and the 449th from the first ascent by Jacques Balmat and Dr. Peccard on the 8th Aug., 1786.

It appears that the "Lancashire Fasting Girl" has not, as was stated, "fasted" for sixteen months. The poor young girl who, according to the report of a local medical man, has been needlessly dragged before the public, has been confined to bed during that period, but has all along taken a little, though but a little, food; her parents have no desire to make money by her unfortunate illness.

SWIMMING BATHS.—A company has been projected, having for its object the erection of swimming baths in various parts of the metropolis. They purpose to commence by erecting one 250 feet long on the Serpentine, one at Chelsea, and the other below Rotherhithe.

A SEVERE EXAMINATION.—At the recent preliminary scientific examination in connection with the London University, 120 candidates presented themselves, of which number only forty-three succeeded in passing—viz., eleven in the first, and thirty-two in the second division. At the last arts examination at the Royal College of Surgeons the number of rejections was nearly as great both on the part of candidates for the fellowship and membership of the college.

THE THAMES.—The Conservators of the river Thames have published their report for the year 1870, from which it is gratifying to learn that their unceasing endeavours "to prevent the introduction of sewage and other impurities into the river have in many cases had a beneficial effect." Eton and Reading have already adopted measures for the diversion of their sewage; and Windsor and Kingston-upon-Thames have received formal notice that they must discontinue the discharge of obnoxious matter into the river.

THE PURE LITERATURE SOCIETY.—This society has the distinctive feature that it does not edit or print either books or periodicals, but it selects, recommends, and circulates periodicals and books, besides cottage pictures, school cards, diagrams, maps, texts, and broadsheets. From these subscribers of a guinea may have a shilling parcel sent free every month, and may purchase books at reduced prices or may recommend grants of libraries of 10*l.* value at half-price. 2,600 libraries have been granted thus to associations, schools, village committees, hotels, workhouses, gaols, hospitals, &c., in all parts of the world, as well as to ships, which have now 600 libraries afloat.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS NUNNELEY.—In our list of deaths this week appears the name of this gentleman. He was better known some years ago to the public of Leicester than lately, having been elected a member of the Town Council at the first election in 1835, an alderman in 1841, and mayor in 1849. He was a consistent and thoroughgoing Liberal and Dissenter, and, when in fortunate circumstances, contributed freely to most objects of charity and usefulness. He carried on business on an extensive scale for many years as a wholesale grocer, succeeding his father, a once well-known and respectable tradesman living near the High Cross; but of late years Mr. Nunneley has been a sharebroker, and has lived at Harborough.—*Leicester Chronicle.*

THE STOWMARKET EXPLOSION.—The inquiry into the circumstances of this lamentable explosion was concluded on Wednesday. Some further chemical evidence having been taken, the court was addressed by Mr. Merriman and Mr. Poland, after which the coroner proceeded to sum up. The jury ultimately returned the following verdict:—"That the explosion causing the deaths of persons on whom this inquest was held was produced by some person or persons unknown adding sulphuric acid to the gun-cotton subsequent to its passing the tests required by Government. At the same time we consider, from the evidence adduced, that there is no danger in the manufacture of gun-cotton in the wet process, but that the drying and storing of gun-cotton should not be allowed near a town. Also, we consider that gun-cotton works should be subject to constant Government inspection."

A REPUBLICAN PROGRAMME.—A programme has been issued by the London Republicans, in which they state their object to be "the attainment of the highest standard of political and social rights for man, and the promotion of the intellectual, moral, and material welfare of mankind." The means to realise this object are set down as—"1. Application of the federation principle to all Republican States. 2. Abolition of aristocratic titles and privileges. 3. Suppression of all monopolies. 4. Abolition of standing armies. 5. Compulsory gratuitous secular and industrial education. 6. Obligation of the State to provide suitable employment for all citizens able to work, and sustenance for the incapacitated. None to live upon the labour of others. 7. Nationalisation of land. 8. Direct legislation by the people." Among the means to carry out the principles, including the unity of Republicans, establishment of Republican clubs, and diffusion of Republican principles, is the following:—"The establishment of a high court of Republican equity under the name of the Republican Areopagus, which shall judge all violations of the laws of humanity and the rights of man committed by crowned heads, statesmen, parliaments, law courts," &c.

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT.—The old Peace Society and the Workmen's Peace Society have set about taking what may be considered conjoint action which if persevered in cannot fail to produce results of a satisfactory nature in the interests of universal peace. Both societies have commenced agitating the collection of a special fund of 10,000*l.* each. Towards the special fund of the old Peace Society large subscriptions have been already gained. The prospects of the fund which the Workmen's Peace Association intend raising are not as yet very promising, owing to the fact that it has not been as yet made very well known; but the council of the society are about to issue an address setting forth their programme for the ensuing six months, and pointing out the means whereby the 10,000*l.* required can be raised. It is intended to hold meetings throughout the country during the autumn and winter. The campaign of the society is to commence in four or five weeks. The home counties are to be first agitated. The council hope to be able, by means of these meetings, to form committees and branches of the association in all the principal cities and towns in England, to gain wide-spread support for the proposition of Mr. Richard, M.P., for the establishment of a permanent system of international arbitration, and to extend generally the principles of the organisation. The address will be issued in a week or so.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—On Wednesday the board met under the presidency of Sir Thomas Tilson, the attendance being small. The accounts presented showed for the first time a balance in favour of the board. Precepts had been paid from various parishes amounting to 20,780*l.* 16s. 2d. After payments ordered there remained a balance of 16,562*l.* 18s. 8d. There were two applications for transfer of schools, which were referred to the Works Committee. Mr. Smithies obtained leave, as a matter of emergency, to move the following resolution:—

That the solicitor be requested to consider and to report to the next meeting whether the board has any power, under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, to subsidise schools for one year, instead of actually taking the transfers of such schools.

He explained that his object was to see if some means of help could not be afforded to the managers of these schools without the boards taking the transfer for a year of many of them. Mr. Lucraft seconded the motion. Mr. Tabrum said the proposal to subsidise schools with the ratepayers' money, schools which the board would have no control over, was a principle to which he could not assent. Mr. Smithies pointed out that his motion did not touch the principle, and he acknowledged that he saw many difficulties in the way of subsidising schools. He thought the board, however, should know what were its powers in this respect.

The motion was agreed to, and the board adjourned.

MR. AYRTON, MR. LOWE, AND MR. DOWSE.—The *Civilian* vouches for the following story, which reaches it from Dublin:—"When Mr. Ayrton was appointed to his present office, it was stated in Whitehall that he had been sent from the Treasury because Mr. Lowe declared that he neither could or would put up with him any longer. We believe the statement was strictly correct, but however that may be, the right hon. and noble savage is certainly making himself felt at the Board of Works; his last triumph is so characteristic of the man, and redounds so much to his credit, that we cannot withhold our knowledge of it from our readers. During the late session, Mr. Dowse, the Solicitor-General for Ireland, being accustomed to work at a high 'stand-up' desk, applied in the ordinary way that one might be placed in the room occupied by him in the Irish Office. The request was refused by the Board of Works, whereupon Mr. Dowse made a direct application to Mr. Ayrton for the desired article of furniture; but the elect of Whitehall was equal to the occasion, and so he curtly informed his colleague that if he wanted such a desk he might procure one on forwarding a certificate from a duly qualified medical man, stating that the condition of his health was so precarious as to render it necessary that he should stand when transacting official business. Mr. Dowse very properly declined to 'demean himself' by complying with so insulting a requirement, and thus the First Commissioner triumphed and saved the country 3*l.* or 4*l.*"

TRURO ELECTION.—Colonel Hogg having been induced to come forward in the Conservative interest, Mr. Augustus Smith retired. The nomination took place yesterday. Mr. Jenkins said he was no Communist or Socialist. His views were those which every honest, intelligent, and farseeing man, anxious for the good of his country, must entertain. He stood there as an independent Liberal, and would support Liberal principles through thick and thin, but he must always vote according to his conscience. Mr. Gladstone was his man as long as he pursued the principles of the Liberal party. He was strongly in favour of the ballot, of the reorganisation of the army and navy, and of sanitary reform. Colonel Hogg then followed, resting his claims on the broad ground of which were best for the country's good, Conservative or Liberal principles. He repudiated the notion that the Conservative creed was a rigid and inexpansive one, and spoke at length on the failures of last session, severely blaming the Government for its reckless reductions under the name of economy. He declared himself decidedly opposed to the Permissive Bill and the Government Licensing Bill, but would promote temperance in every just way. He would also determinedly resist the separation of Church and State. The Mayor declared the show of hands to be slightly in favour of Colonel Hogg, and a poll was demanded for Mr. Jenkins. The contest will, no doubt, be a close one.

THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT READING, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the Prince of Wales on the 1st of July last year, was opened on Monday by the Lord Chancellor. His lordship, in the course of his address, said that he had no faith in particular schemes of education, but he had the greatest faith in a good master; and, having selected a good man, the best thing that could be done was to leave him alone. With respect to the studies to be pursued at the school, Lord Hatherley said he could not join those persons, eminent as they were, who deprecated altogether instruction in Greek and Latin, especially in Greek and Latin composition. The mistake was to suppose that such composition was given for the sake of enabling boys to learn how to make Greek and Latin verses: and on this assumption people asked, "What purpose in life can such an acquirement serve?" But you would never know a language thoroughly, whether it was an ancient or a modern language, until you could write it and compose in it, because then you you must think in it. That was the advantage of Greek and Latin composition; and in learning French the same rule applied. Natural science was of great utility in after life; but the object was at first to give a boy that general basis of education which would be applicable to his narrower sphere of professional instruction when the time came; and the wider the basis, the deeper and more solid would be his professional education.

Gleanings.

A fashionable writer in a New York paper speaks of a recent funeral there as "the finest private affair ever witnessed."

Fourteen fires took place in the metropolitan district between six o'clock on Saturday morning and the same hour on Monday, but most of them were of an unimportant character.

A helpless New York infant is loaded down with the names of "Washington Unser Fritz Wilhelm-Carl Bismark Moltke Manteuffel Grant Sherman Tomkins."

An Irishman, when asked by a lady whether he would take a glass of sherry or a glass of whisky-punch, answered that he would take the glass of sherry while "her ladyship" was mixing the punch.

It is said that chignons, plaits, and curls can be and have been made out of spun glass, which for cleanliness and other reasons, are preferable to human hair, goat's hair, or jute, the materials hitherto used for that purpose.

"I say, boy, is there anything to shoot round here?" inquired a sportsman of a boy he met. "Well," replied the boy, "nothing just about here; but our schoolmaster is just over the hill, cutting birch rods; you might walk up and pop him over."

"How many regular boarders have you, madam?" asked a census-taker of a lady. "Well, really I can't say as any of 'em is any too regular. They stop out." "I mean, madam, how many steady boarders have you?" "Well, really out of nineteen, there's not more'n two that I'd call steady."

The witty John Clark, the barrister, who was lame, overheard a lady remark to a friend, "That's John Clark, the lame lawyer."—Mr. Clark, who was passing along the street, turned round, and addressing the lady said, "No, madam, I'm a lame man, but not a lame lawyer."

In the execution of a recent deed by a man and his wife, the wife was taken aside, before the acknowledgment was made, by the commissioner, who, in the usual form, asked, "Do you execute this deed freely, and without fear or compulsion of your husband?"—"Fear of my husband!" exclaimed the wife; "I've had five husbands, and never was afraid of any one of them!"

KANGAROO VENISON.—The *Philadelphia Ledger* states that the tails of kangaroos, which are very muscular and flesh, and make particularly rich and nourishing soup, are sent to England in a fresh state in hermetically sealed tins, and sold as kangaroo venison.

FAST LIVING IN AMERICA.—Mr. Story was asked why he, as a sculptor, worked in Rome and not in America, to which he replied that in America one always has the feeling of hurry. "The busy life at home drives one too rapidly. You always feel the crack of the whip behind you. The very air, as yet, is laden with too much bustle and excitement for the true disciple of art. Your nerves are always overstrained, and you wear out before your ideas are realised."

A CAUTIOUS COMPROMISE.—Dean Ramsay, in hi reminiscences of Scottish life and character, tells a story of an Englishman at a party in Inverness, who boasted that he had seen in India tigers forty feet long. A Scotchman present, not to be behindhand, declared that a skate had been captured off Thurso which exceeded half an acre in extent. Next day the Englishman, who considered that a slur had been cast upon his honour and veracity by the skate story, sent a hostile message to the Scotchman, who coolly replied:—"Weel, sir, gin yer freend will tak' a few feet aff the length o' his tiger, we'll see what can be dune about the breadth o' the skate."

A NEW IDEA.—One of the most wonderful of plans for advertising is now being exhibited every night to an interested crowd in the Strand in London. It is the scheme of the "Transparent Advertisement Company." The latter have taken an entire floor of a house, and, having knocked away a breadth of wall as wide as the building itself, they have placed a revolving screen, on which all kinds and all sizes of announcements are painted. Behind this screen there are gaslights, which throw out a brilliant flame, and at intervals of a minute each the screen in front is moved, showing at each movement a separate advertisement.

MADRASSEE ENGLISH.—We remember to have read some time ago, in one of the Madras papers, the following specimen of English composition:—An ex-schoolmaster, petitioning for a clerkship, promises that "I and my family will ever cease to pray to the humble Almighty to shower his blessing on you and yours for ever." Another, begging for an increase of salary on account of the rise in prices, says: "My pain and sufferings are impeachable, and lie only in the comprehension of gentlemen of your honourable disposition ready to open your bowels of compassion to sympathise with the afflicted, and by extending your gracious hand to shoulder them from the civil darts of this dear city." A third makes the following excuse for absence: "Please excuse attending office to-day, as my grandmother dispatched her life and want to go to firing place to see body fired and ashes put in hole." A clerk, complaining of fever and grapes, "request, most very humbly, a day's leave, as he is unfortunately ill, by the blessing of God." Certainly the imposing style and fluent composition of the above articles plainly show the immense advancement made by the natives of that place in the difficulties of the English language, and certainly ought to encourage those who labour to work and faint not; for consider the utility of men like these in a public office—as corresponding clerks they would be invaluable!—*Poona Observer.*

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This celebrated and most delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the words "Kinahan's LL Whisky," on seal, label and cork. Wholesale Depot, 6A, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, W.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Obstacles Overcome.—The dyspeptic, low-spirited, consumptive, and all suffering from congestion or disordered action of any organ, may be relieved of their maladies by the diligent use of these two inestimable remedies. The Ointment penetrates to the affected part, whether situated near to or remote from the skin, and acts most genially with the Pills in removing all obstructions to the free circulation of pure blood through the deranged organs; over which this Ointment should be rubbed as briskly as possible, and the desired results will follow, without increasing pain or producing additional pangs. By such a course every obstacle to circulation, secretion, and excretion will be overcome, and each function resume its natural state.

NOTICE.—*All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage stamps.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

PEARCE.—September 10, at Stooperdale, Darlington, the wife of the Rev. Percy F. Pearce, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

HAMER—BELL.—September 6, at the Independent Chapel, Garstang, by the Rev. Caleb Scott, LL.B., President of the Lancashire Independent College, the Rev. Thomas Hamer, of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Wm. Bell, Esq., M.D., of Garstang.

GRIERSON—SPENCER.—September 7, at Park Chapel, Camden Town, by the Rev. J. C. Harrison, William Grierson, to Alice Caroline Spencer. No cards.

HENDERSON—JAMES.—September 5, at Queen's-road Chapel, Dalston, by the Rev. W. Miall, Henry Ashton, eldest son of Rev. J. E. Henderson, of Jamaica, to Emily Anne, eldest daughter of G. W. James, of Shoreditch and Kingsland.

SHAW—HAIGH.—September 6, at Salendine Nook Chapel, by the Rev. Henry Dowson, President of Bury College, William Dale, only son of William Shaw, Esq., J.P., Dale House, Longwood, to Sarah, youngest daughter of the late David Haigh, Esq., Pond House, Quarmby. No cards.

FERGUSON—LEVER.—September 6, at the Congregational Church, St. George's-road, Bolton, by the Rev. R. M. Davies, of Oldham, John Smith, third son of Mr. Adam Ferguson, of Rhuddylan House, Dean, to Jane, third daughter of Mr. James Lever, of Bolton.

PRIDAY—GAMMIDGE.—September 7, at the Congregational Church, Leominster, by the Rev. H. Gammidge, of Clevedon, uncle of the bride, Frederick, younger son of Samuel Priday, Linton, Gloucester, to Emily Jane, eldest daughter of William Gammidge, Leominster.

DEATH.

EDWARDS.—September 4, at his residence, Bristol, aged eighty-six years, the Rev. James Edwards, for many years the minister of Hanover Chapel, Brighton.

DE VINE.—September 5, at 66, Great Dover-street, John Charles De Vine, late respected pupil of Mr. J. Hurst, Royal Academy, Kennington, aged twenty. He fell asleep in Jesus.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette.*)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Sept. 6.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£39,185,750	Government Debt.	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ...	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	24,185,750
		Silver Bullion	
	£39,185,750		£39,185,750

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Propr'tor's Capit'l	£14,553,000	Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,768,368
Rest.	3,636,411		
Public Deposits ..	5,421,935		
Other Deposits ..	21,202,265	Other Securities ..	16,860,092
Seven Day and other Bills	541,889	Notes	14,096,205
		Gold & Silver Coin	630,835
	£45,355,500		£45,355,500

Sept. 7, 1871. FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast-tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Epps's Cacaoine, a very thin beverage for evening use.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Sept. 11.

Of English wheat little was on offer this morning, but the market is well supplied from abroad. The trade continues very firm, and the advance made during last week was supported, being 2s. per qr. on English wheat since Monday last. Foreign wheat has improved fully 2s. on American and Russian descriptions. Flour was 1s. per sack and 6d. per barrel dearer. Peas and beans were unaltered in value. Barley met a good demand at former prices. Indian corn made 6d. per qr. advance. Oats were more inquired after, and have recovered fully 6d. per qr. from the recent decline. Cargoes on the coast have met a ready sale at an advance of 2s. per qr. for wheat and 1s. per qr. for Indian corn since Monday last.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—		
Essex and Kent, red..	—	to —
Ditto new.. ..	53	to 58
White	—	—
„ new ..	58	63
Foreign red ..	54	56
„ white ..	59	61
BARLEY—		
English malting	31	34
Chevalier.. ..	36	42
Distilling.. ..	35	39
Foreign	33	37
MALT—		
Pale	—	—
Chevalier.. ..	—	—
Brown	49	54
BEANS—		
Ticks	37	38
Harrow	39	43
Small	—	—
Egyptian.. ..	32	33

	Per Qr. s.	s.
PEAS—		
Grey	37	to 40
Maple	43	46
White	38	42
Boilers	38	42
Foreign	37	40
RYE—	36	38
OATS—		
English feed ..	23	26
„ potato..	27	32
Scotch feed ..	—	—
„ potato..	—	—
Irish Black ..	19	21
„ White ..	21	24
Foreign feed ..	16	20
FLOUR—		
Town made ..	47	50
Best country households ..	40	43
Norfolk & Suffolk	38	39

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Sept. 11.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 29,161 head. In the corresponding week in 1870 we received 12,009; in 1869, 15,310; in 1868, 6,295; and in 1867, 12,144 head. In the cattle trade, to-day, busi-

ness has been quiet. There has been a fair supply of beasts on sale, but foreign breeds have predominated, and really choice stock has been scarce. The demand has been wanting in animation, and the value of the best Scots and crosses has not exceeded 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 8lbs. Foreign stock has realised 5s. 2d. and occasionally 5s. 4d. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,700 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England, 250 various breeds; and from Ireland, 50 oxen. There has been a moderate show of sheep in the pens. Sales have progressed quietly, on former terms. The best Downs and half-breds have made 6s. 8d. to 6s. 10d. per 8lbs. Calves have been in fair supply and moderate request, and have sold at about previous rates. Pigs have sold at late rates.

Per 8lbs., to sink the offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	8	to 4	10	Pr. coarse wooled	6	2	6	6
Second quality	5	2	5	4	Prime Southdown	6	8	6	10
Prime large oxen	5	4	5	6	Lge. coarse calves	3	8	4	6
Prime Scots	5	6	5	8	Prime small	5	0	5	8
Coarse inf. sheep	4	4	4	10	Large hogs	3	6	4	0
Second quality	5	0	5	8	Neat sm. porkers	4	0	4	8

Lamb, 0s. 0d. to 0s. 0d., and Quarter old store pigs, —s. to —s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Sept. 11.—Limited supplies of meat have been on sale. The trade has been dull at our quotations.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	8	to 4	4	Middling do.	5	0	to 5	2
Middling do.	4	4	4	6	Prime do.	5	8	6	0
Prime large do.	4	8	5	0	Large pork	3	8	4	4
Prime small do.	5	0	5	4	Small do.	4	8	5	2
Veal	5	0	5	4	Lamb	0	0	0	0
Inferior Mutton	4	4	5	0					

PROVISIONS, Monday, Sept. 11.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 2,071 firkins butter and 2,886 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 20,278 packages butter and 2,376 bales bacon. The sale for Irish butter has been active during the past week, and sales of the finest Clonmels were made at 118s. to 119s. on board. Foreign sold well without change in prices, except Dutch, which advanced 128s. to 130s. The bacon market has ruled steady for the finest Waterford sizeable without alteration in prices; but Cork and Limerick sold slowly at a decline of 4s. to 6s.; stout and heavy meat sold very slowly, and was pushed off at low prices. No change in Hamburg bacon.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Friday, Sept. 8.—We have very little alteration to notice this week, supplies being about equal to the demand, and trade continues very steady for good fruit and vegetables. Peaches and nectarines are more plentiful and of better quality. We are receiving large consignments of foreign produce, but of home-grown goods the supply is about equal to the demand. In the potatoe market we have no alteration to report.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, Sept. 11.—Our market has just received a considerable quantity of early hops, and a fair business has been transacted, at rates ranging from £6 to £7 7s. for Sussex, and £6 10s. to £8 for Kents. Prices have also assumed a firmer tone than was noticeable last week, arising from the unfavourable tenor of the reports from the plantations, where the red spider and mould prevail to a large extent, both having tended considerably to lower the quantity quality of the yield. Yearlings, medium and ordinary, can be purchased at a slight reduction; fine grades are rmly held. Continental markets are firm, and the few new hops which have come to hand have realised extreme values. Mid and East Kents, 3*l.*, 4*l.* 4s., to 7*l.* 7s.; Weald of Kent, 3*l.*, 4*l.*, to 5*l.* 5s.; Sussex, 3*l.*, 3*l.* 10s., to 4*l.* 15s.; Farnham and country, 4*l.* 10s. 5*l.* 5s., to 6*l.*; Olds, 1*l.*, 1*l.* 5s., to 1*l.* 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Sept. 11.—These markets have been scantily supplied with potatoes. The demand has been only to a moderate extent, at the annexed quotations:—Regents, 70s. to 85s. per ton; Kidneys, 70s. to 80s. per ton; Shaws, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Sept. 11—There is no English cloverseed yet offering. American was held quite as high, with only a few buyers. In white seed little passing, and prices unvaried. Trefoil realised quite as much money, with some inquiry for the best samples of old. Trifolium was offered at easy rates, with a moderate sale. New rye was 2s. per qr, dearer. New winter beans can be bought at fair prices. New mustardseed from Essex was worth from 9s. to 9s. 6d. per bushel; but the supply from Cambridgeshire could be bought at much lower rates. Winter tares were in greater demand, but at prices rather in favour of the buyers. Canaryseed was fully as dear. Dutch carraway seeds were held higher.

WOOL, Monday, Sept. 11.—Although business in the wool market has not been on a liberal scale, the tone has continued healthy. For short qualities there has been a good demand.

OIL, Monday, Sept. 11.—Linseed oil has been firm. Rape has been quieter. Other oils have sold slowly.

TALLOW, Monday, Sept. 11.—The market is quiet. Y.C., spot, 44s. per cwt. Town tallow, 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Sept. 11.—Market heavy at last day's rates. Hettons, 18s. 6d.; Hettons Sonth, 18s.; Hettons Lyons, 15s. 9d.; Harton, 15s. 9d.; Hartlepool (original), 18s. 6d.; Hawthorn, 15s. 3d.; Kelloe South, 17s.; Eden Main, 16s. 3d.; Thrislington, 17s. Ships fresh arrived, 30; ships left from last day, 3—total, 33.. Ships at sea, 10.

Advertisements.

PALESTINE, EGYPT, &c.—Mr. GAZE, the originator and first conductor of Tours to the East, will start OCTOBER 14 with his Fifth Party to EGYPT and the HOLY LAND, including a Grand Tour, by the Rhine and Switzerland, to Milan, Florence, Rome, Naples, &c., &c., returning for Christmas. Full particulars in "Tourist Gazette," offices, 163, Strand, London.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES, 8, GRANVILLE-TERRACE, SHAFTESBURY-ROAD, HAMMERSMITH, W.

The Misses GREEN will have VACANCIES for Three or Four BOARDERS at the beginning of next term. The Pupils enjoy the comforts of home, and are thoroughly instructed in English, with languages and accomplishments. Prospectuses on application. References kindly permitted to Rev. S. G. Green, D.D., President of Rawdon College, near Leeds, and to the Parents of Pupils.

The NEXT TERM commences on MONDAY, Sept. 11.

REGISTRATION.—BOROUGH OF HACKNEY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FRANCIS HENRY BACON, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, having been appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of England to REVISE the LIST of VOTERS for the Borough of Hackney, will hold his Court for that purpose as follows:—

For the Lists relating to the Parish of St. John at Hackney, in the New Town Hall, Hackney, situate within the said Borough, on Saturday, the 23rd day of September inst., commencing at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

For the Lists relating to the Parish of Saint Leonard, Shoreditch, in the New Town Hall, Shoreditch, situate within the said Borough, on Saturday, the 23rd day of September inst., commencing at One o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

For the Lists relating to the Parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, in the New Town Hall, Bethnal Green, situate within the said Borough, on Saturday, the 23rd day of September inst., commencing at Three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

The Returning Officer and Overseers of the respective Parishes within the said Borough are required to attend the Court of the Revising Barrister, and at the opening of the said Court to deliver to the Revising Barrister the List of Voters made by them respectively, and also all the original Notices of Claims and Objections received by them, and to produce all Rate-Books, Documents, Papers, and Writings in their possession, custody, or power, touching any matter necessary for Revising the respective Lists of Voters.

HENRY CHILD,
Returning Officer for the said Borough.
Dated this 8th day of September, 1871.
Down's-road, Clapton, and
No. 2, Paul's Bakehouse-court, Doctors' Commons, City.

OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.

The NEXT SESSION commences on the 2nd OCTOBER. Prospectuses, either for the Day or Evening Classes, will be forwarded gratis on application. The CALENDAR of the College, containing full details respecting the courses of study, entrance exhibitions, scholarships, and examinations for degrees in the University of London, &c., may be obtained from the Booksellers and at the College, price 2s. 6d.; by post, 2s. 9d.

J. G. GREENWOOD, Principal.
J. HOLME NICHOLSON, Registrar.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES-GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals—The Misses HOWARD.
Resident English, French, and German Governesses.
Attendant Professors.
Reports monthly. Test Examinations every term.

This College educates Daughters of Gentlemen and Professional Men.

The House is large, airy, and well situated, and has an ample lawn for out-of-door recreation.

The Misses Howard aim to secure for their Pupils a sound literary and intellectual culture, together with refined manners, and a healthy Christian and moral training.

Prospectus, with references and copies of Examination Papers, on application.

AUTUMN TERM will COMMENCE THURSDAY, Sept. 21.

WESTWOOD PARK HOUSE, FOREST HILL.

Rev. H. J. CHANCELLOR, Principal.

The NEXT TERM commences WEDNESDAY, Sept. 13.

EDUCATION.—THE WOODLANDS, REDHILL, SURREY.

The NEXT TERM will begin on the 22nd of SEPTEMBER.

Prospectuses forwarded on application to the Principal, John Hill, M.A.

VICTORIA VILLA, FINCHLEY, N.

ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES, Conducted Mrs. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

HIGHBURY HOUSE SCHOOL, St. LEONARD'S-ON-SEA.

Upper, Middle, and Preparatory Departments.

Classics, Mathematics, Modern Languages, and thorough English.

Kinder-Garten and Pestalozzian Classes for Little Boys.

The comfort and health of delicate boys especially studied.

A liberal table and watchful care.

Head Master—Rev. W. WOODING, B.A.

For Prospectus apply to Mrs. Duff, Highbury House, St. Leonard's.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 37, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, W.C. Beds, from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

"We are more than satisfied; we are truly delighted to find in London so quiet and comfortable a domicile. We shall certainly highly recommend Shirley's to all our friends."—J. ROBERTS, Bourne.

"As on all previous visits, I can testify that this is the most comfortable home I find when away from home."—W. B. HARVEY, Frome.

"After visiting various places in England, I have come to consider Shirley's (in view of its combining the greatest comfort and respectability, with the most moderate charges) as the Temperance Hotel *par excellence*."—J. K. KARCHER, Toronto, C.W.

The Ladies are respectfully solicited to make a trial of the

GLENFIELD STARCH,

which they will find to be far superior to any other Starch for dressing Laces, Linens, &c.

It is now used in all Laundries, from the cottage to the palace, and when once tried is found to be indispensable

When you ask for Glenfield Starch, see that you get it,

as inferior kinds are often substituted for the sake of extra profits.

Patronised by the CROWN PRINCESS of PRUSSIA, the SULTAN of TURKEY, and the NAWAB NAZIM of BENGAL.

THE SHAKESPEAR. £4 4s. HAND LOCK-STITCH MACHINE.

Wheeler and Wilson,
Grover and Baker,
La Silencieuse,
Willcox and Gibbs,
Agenoria,
Guelph,
Cleopatra,
Wanzer,
Weir,
Princess of Wales,
American, &c.

SMITH and CO., having no interest in selling any particular Machine, are enabled to recommend impartially the one best suited for the work to be done, and offer this GUARANTEE to their Customers:—Any Machine sold by them may be EXCHANGED after one month's trial, for any other kind, without charge for use.

SMITH & CO., 4, Charles-street, Soho, W.

(Four doors from Oxford-street.)

CARACAS COCOA.

"A most delicious and valuable article."—Standard.

"Nothing can be found at all equal to it."—Court Circular.

FRY'S CARACAS COCOA.

"A packet can be easily obtained, and its delicate flavour and fine aroma ensure its adoption as a beverage for breakfast or supper."—Standard.

FRY'S EXTRACT OF COCOA.

The pure Cocoa Nib deprived of its superfluous oil.

N.B.—A sample, post free, on application.

J. S. FRY and SONS, Bristol and London.

FRAGRANT SOAP.

The celebrated "UNITED SERVICE" TABLET is famed for its delightful fragrance and beneficial effect on the skin.

Manufactured by

J. C. & J. FIELD, Patentees of the Self-fitting Candles.

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